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HANDS-ON HELP

People-first policy strengthens public morale during COVID-19 outbreak

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EDITOR'S DESK

People First

As of May 14, there were 82,929 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in China, with 4,633 deaths. In contrast, at that time, there were more than 1.39 million confirmed cases in the United States and over 84,000 deaths, the highest in the world on both counts.

The huge difference has led to many U.S. politicians alleging that China underreported the numbers. However, other unbiased voices around the world have acknowledged that China has been transparent about the statistics and the numbers could not have been fudged. The difference occurred because though the U.S. has a better developed healthcare system, China was able to control the epidemic more effectively as the Chinese Government put the people first in the epidemic prevention and control work.

Putting people first is a basic principle of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in governance. Key CPC documents and communiqués stress that people's interests should be put above everything else and that the Party and government should be of one mind with the people, share a common destiny with them and rely on them to propel China's history forward.

When COVID-19 occurred, the Chinese Government put the life and safety of the people first and implemented the most comprehensive, rigorous and thorough measures to safeguard public life and health, regardless of the cost to the economy. Also, the government and people were united as one to wage an all-out people's war against the virus and the arduous efforts led to strategic outcomes.

Even after the virus was brought under control and factories and offices resumed work across the country, people's safety still remains the priority. The central as well as local governments and medical institutions have been providing guidance to ensure safety at the workplace with preventive measures such as checking employees' temperature, providing free masks to them and educating them on epidemic prevention.

Measures are still in place to quarantine those showing signs of the disease, ensure their treatment, and facilitate their return to work after they are confirmed to have been cured.

This people-first orientation of the government has won the trust of the Chinese. Two market research agencies, Blackbox Research and Toluna, conducted a survey in April covering 23 countries, asking about 12,500 people to rate their government's COVID-19 containment measures.

China ranked highest in the citizens' survey, scoring 85 out of 100. Also, 85 percent of the Chinese respondents said they believe their country will come out of the crisis stronger, while just 41 percent U.S. respondents thought the same thing about their country.

The U.S., which has the most advanced medical technology in the world, would have fared better if it had put its people and their lives first, as the Chinese Government did. ■

WRITE TO US

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A HEAD FOR HEIGHTS

A team of surveyors returns to the advanced base camp of Mount Qomolangma, the highest peak in the world, in Tibet Autonomous Region, southwest China, on May 12, to dodge bad weather and the risk of snowslides.

Chinese surveyors started remeasuring the height of the mountain on April 30 for an update as the mountain grows when snow accumulates on the summit and shrinks when it melts.

China has conducted six rounds of measurement and scientific research on Mount Qomolangma since 1949. The last one in 2005 determined the height to be 8,844.43 meters.

XINHUA

Images of Love

Primary school students in Lianyungang, a city in Jiangsu Province in east China, show on May 9 the paintings they did of their mothers to celebrate Mother's Day, May 10.

Swine Fever

China is making headway in containing African swine fever, with cases of the disease dwindling since late 2018.

No major regional outbreak of the animal disease has occurred since August 2018, when the first case was confirmed in the northeastern province of Liaoning, Han Changfu, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, said at a video conference on May 12.

Han added that the number of reported cases also showed a downward trend.

Hog production recovery has gained momentum. The number of breeding sows in stock increased in the past three months and the prices of live pigs went down for 12 consecutive weeks, he said.

To continue stabilizing hog production and pork prices, the minister urged local departments to tighten monitoring, enhance regular disease control and optimize oversight of each link.

Coupon Incentive

The northern port city of Tianjin will distribute coupons worth more than 60 million yuan ($8.46 million) to stimulate consumption, local authorities said on May 12.

Coupons worth 21 million yuan ($3 million) have already been issued. They are for use in catering, cars, home appliances and building materials businesses, according to the Tianjin Commission of Commerce.

The city will provide enterprises, which have online stores on major shopping platforms such as Tmall, JD.com and Suning.com, with financial subsidies to reduce their annual fees and commissions.

Many cities, including Nanjing in Jiangsu Province in east China and Ningbo in Zhejiang Province, also in the east, have launched coupons to encourage residents to dine out and shop to boost consumption hit hard by the novel coronavirus.

Game Expo

ChinaJoy, Asia's biggest game event held annually in Shanghai, will start on July 31 as scheduled, its organizing committee announced.

The four-day exhibition will be held both online and offline. All the preparatory work is going smoothly, the organizing committee told an online press conference on May 11.

It will launch new programs such as a Global Cloud-Game Industry Conference and a Fashion Toy Exhibition. Also known as the China Digital Entertainment Expo and Conference, the exhibition received 364,700 gamers last year.

China has become the world's largest online game market. Statistics show that the market size hit 231 billion yuan ($32.6 billion) in 2018, and is expected to reach 300 billion yuan ($42.3 billion) in 2020.

Canton Fair

The 127th China Import and Export Fair, also known as the Canton Fair, will exempt exhibition fees for enterprises, according to the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) on May 10.

Exhibition fees will be waived to cope with the impact of the epidemic and help foreign trade enterprises expand market and tide over difficulties.

Cross-border e-commerce platforms that participate will also be exempt from fees.

MOFCOM lowered exhibition fees for the Canton Fair for many sessions to relieve pressure on firms and exempted booth fees for enterprises from poverty-stricken areas in recent years, saving over 2 billion yuan ($283 million) for enterprises.

The 127th Canton Fair will be held online from June 15 to 24.

Rural Development

A guideline to promote digital technologies in rural areas has been released to advance agricultural and rural modernization.

Issued by four government departments including the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, it details measures to support the use of information technology in epidemic control, as well as economic and social development in rural areas.

It encourages the use of technologies like big data, artificial intelligence (AI), and remote intelligent agricultural machinery, and online services in areas such as spring farming, vocational training and recruitment of migrant workers.

It also highlights the construction of new infrastructure in rural areas, including expanding the broadband and 4G network, improving Internet access for schools, upgrading power grids and promoting smart water conservancy projects.

Digital technologies are recommended to promote inclusive finance in rural areas.

Publishers' Webinar

Representatives from the global publishing community explored ways of coping with the COVID-19 pandemic's repercussions on their industry at a webinar on May 11.

While COVID-19 has taken a toll on book publishing and distribution, smart technology is gaining traction, Lu Cairong, Vice President of the China International Publishing Group (CIPG), said.

CIPG, a Beijing-based Chinese publishing conglomerate targeting international readers, has been building a cyber presence by hosting online events. Publishers from nine countries including China, the United States and Germany took part in the webinar. CIPG has previously held a virtual book launch and marketed some of its titles through live-streaming.

"It is heartening to see that China has overcome this disease," said Mohan K. Kalsi, Chairman of the BKM RoyalCollins Publishers Private Limited, the New Delhi-based Indian branch company of Royal Collins.

Kalsi told *Beijing Review* that BKM RoyalCollins has translated a book by Zhang Wenhong, an outspoken doctor from Shanghai who had led a team of medical experts fighting the epidemic in Wuhan since January, into Hindi and plans to launch it this month.

As part of its efforts to bolster the publishing industry and counter the impact of the pandemic, CIPG will stage an international book fair online in mid-July.

Learning Chinese

A global Chinese language learning platform has recorded more than half a million users worldwide.

As of May 6, the platform, iFLYChinese, had attracted 576,000 users from 123 countries and regions, according to iFLYTEK Co. Ltd., a leading Chinese AI company that developed the app. The platform uses AI-based technology to reach out to learners at home and abroad. Learners are assigned personal AI tutors, which can correct their pronunciation and give personalized feedback and exercise cards for memory-enhancing learning activities.

The platform also features a collection of Chinese poetry, classical literature and calligraphy masterpieces in audio and video to help the users understand Chinese culture.

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Passing the Baton

Teachers put nurses' caps on students majoring in nursing at a vocational school in Nantong, a city in Jiangsu Province in east China, on May 10. The ceremony was held before the statue of British nurse Florence Nightingale, who is regarded as the foundational philosopher of modern nursing. International Nurses Day, marked on May 12, commemorates her birth and celebrates the important role of nurses in healthcare.

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Museum Reopens

Tourists at the Palace Museum on May 1. The museum, also known as the Forbidden City, reopened after it was closed on January 25. Visitors need to make reservations online, wear masks and have their body temperatures checked before admission. There is a daily cap on the number of visitors.

Passenger Cars

Sales of passenger cars in China continued to warm up in April as pent-up demand was unleashed, but the foundation for a "V-shape" rebound is yet to solidify due to the lingering uncertainties caused by the impact of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) epidemic, industry data showed on May 11.

The retail sales of passenger vehicles amounted to 1.43 million units in April, down 5.6 percent year on year but recovering from the 40-percent drop in March and 79-percent fall in February, according to the China Passenger Car Association (CPCA).

Passenger car sales surged 36.6 percent month on month, reversing the usual seasonal trend and suggesting a relatively quick recovery in demand following further domestic containment of the epidemic.

While the overseas spread of the virus may have affected consumer confidence, pent-up demand combined with consumption-stimulating policies have offset the negative impacts, the CPCA noted, adding that the slump in international oil prices also played a part.

Sales of new energy passenger cars came in at 64,000 units in April, down 30 percent year on year but up 14.8 percent from March.

To cushion the short-term impact of the epidemic outbreak on auto sales, a pillar of Chinese consumption, the Chinese Government has encouraged local authorities and financial institutions to roll out measures to help stimulate the market.

Fund Custody

The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) is mulling over supporting foreign banks to gain access to fund custody service in the Chinese market, a move to further open up the financial sector, according to a revised draft of fund custody rules issued by the country's top securities regulator.

Eligible domestic branches of foreign banks would be able to apply for permit to conduct fund custody business, according to the draft circulated for public comments by the CSRC.

Besides general entry requirements, applicant branches for the permit should have been in operation for at least three years with good performance and asset quality, as well as enough working capital to match the scale of the planned fund custody business, according to the draft.

As for financial performance requirements such as net assets, which were revised down to 20 billion yuan ($2.82 billion) in the new version, the draft suggested using the performance indicators of the applicants' headquarters overseas.

The draft also improves regulatory oversight of fund custodian banks to stem risks through ways including having the headquarters of foreign banks bear civil liability for their Chinese branches, as well as specifying requirements on cross-border information system deployment and cross-border flow of data.

The revision marks a further step in China's financial opening-up to further boost foreign banks' participation in the Chinese securities and fund market, *Shanghai Securities News* reported, citing remarks from HSBC Bank (China), which is looking forward to gaining access to the fund custody business in the domestic market.

Liao Zhiming, an analyst with Tianfeng Securities, said the move is unlikely to impact the domestic banking sector. It will encourage benign competition and bring in more funds to the capital market.

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Accelerating Construction

Staff work at the construction site of the intercity railway between the Zhengzhou Xinzheng International Airport and the Zhengzhou South Railway Station in Zhengzhou, Henan Province in central China, on May 10. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.

Tax Reduction

A new survey by *China Youth Daily* found that 58.6 percent of respondents supported the rollout of tax and fee reduction measures to ease strains on firms and help mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic.

The survey covered 2,015 people, 26.9 percent of whom live in first-tier cities, 48.4 percent in second-tier cities, and 20.6 percent in third- and fourth-tier cities.

Besides cutting taxes and fees and offering discounts on loan interest rates, over half of the respondents said they expect strengthened implementation of policies to promote work and production resumption, and the provision of special buses and trains to transport employees back to cities where they work.

In terms of the main difficulties faced by enterprises in achieving full resumption of work and production, 44 percent of the respondents were concerned about the flow of logistics, while nearly 40 percent think the challenges include unsynchronized opening of enterprises in upstream and downstream industrial chains and insufficient funds.

Zhang Liqun, a researcher with

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Tourism Rebounds

Tourists catch crayfish at an agricultural base in Donglin County, Huzhou in Zhejiang Province in east China, on May 10. The base has developed fishing programs this year utilizing local natural conditions to attract tourists and increase farmers' income.

the Development Research Center of the State Council, said that the resumption of work and production has entered a crucial period. With regular epidemic control measures in place, efforts should be made to speed up the elimination of bottlenecks and the implementation of various measures to expand domestic demand.

Bulk Commodity

China's demand for bulk commodities is expected to continue growing in the second quarter of the year, as business resumption speeds up and supportive economic policies get implemented, according to the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing (CFLP).

There will be faster progress in the development of transport and water conservancy infrastructure as well as new infrastructure projects including 5G networks and data centers, all of which will drive demand for bulk commodities, the CFLP said in an analysis posted on its website.

Local governments have already unveiled a raft of new infrastructure projects to boost industrial and consumption upgrade and forge new growth drivers.

Guizhou Province in southwest China started the construction of 49 new infrastructure projects with a total investment of 10.4 billion yuan ($1.47 billion) in April. Shanghai is expected to invest around 270 billion yuan ($38 billion) in the next three years to build such infrastructure including 34,000 new 5G base stations.

Industry indicators compiled by the CFLP pointed to rising demand since March. The index of bulk commodity inventory dropped to 99.6 percent in April as consumption further picked up.

Online Lending

The China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC), the country's top banking and insurance regulator, on May 9 issued draft rules on online lending by commercial banks.

The draft rules were issued to solicit public opinion in order to standardize the online lending business of commercial banks and promote a steady and healthy development of online lending business, the CBIRC said in a statement.

The commercial banks' online loans should be small in amount and short in term, with high efficiency and controllable risks, it said.

The credit line of personal consumer loans by a single household shall not exceed 200,000 yuan ($28,249), and the credit extension period shall not exceed one year if the principal is repaid in a lump sum upon maturity, it said.

The CBIRC also stressed the need for risk management and required commercial banks to build a comprehensive risk management system for online lending business.

The rules can help improve commercial banks' supervision of online lending, make up for institutional weaknesses, prevent financial risks and improve the quality of financial services, it said.

Consumption Boost

Efforts will prop up the business resumption of commercial circulation enterprises amid regular epidemic prevention and control to unleash the potential of consumption in China.

Measures will be taken to reduce firms' transaction costs, improve corporate credit services, optimize payment and settlement environment, support the growth of credit consumption and enhance data sharing, according to a circular jointly issued by the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) and Chinese card payment giant China UnionPay.

Local commerce authorities are encouraged to work with branches of China UnionPay to assist such firms with a series of targeted and flexible programs to spur the vitality of consumption and form a strong domestic market.

China has taken a string of measures to stimulate consumption as the COVID-19 epidemic wanes, such as issuing consumer coupons, launching sales promotions and broadening sales channels.

During the five-day May Day holiday, the average daily sales of retail enterprises monitored by MOFCOM increased by 32.1 percent from the previous Tomb-Sweeping Day holiday in April.

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Online Promotion

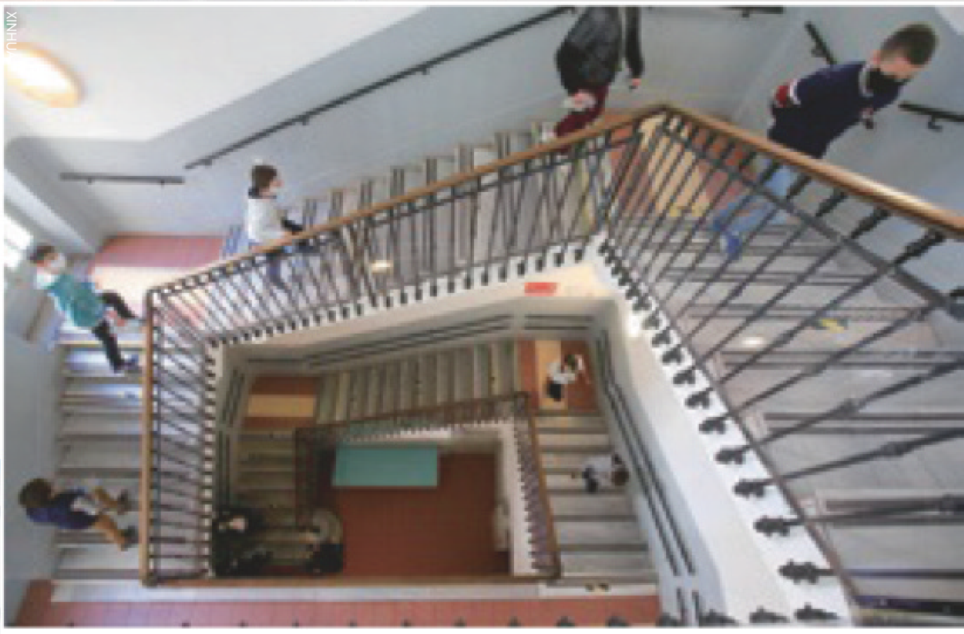
A live-streaming host sells children's clothing at an e-commerce incubator in Lanshan District in Linyi, Shandong Province in east China, on May 8. In recent years, the district has developed e-commerce zones to boost offline marketplaces.

RUSSIA

A firefighter is disinfected after a mission in a hospital in St. Petersburg on May 12. Five people lost their lives and 150 were evacuated

FRANCE

Students maintain distance at the Simone Veil Primary School in Nice on May 12. As France started easing some coronavirus restrictions on May 11, nearly 1 million schoolchildren were ready to resume class



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INDIA

Members of the National Disaster Response Force search onsite after a gas leakage at the LG Polymers chemical plant in Andhra Pradesh State on May 7. The death toll reached 12

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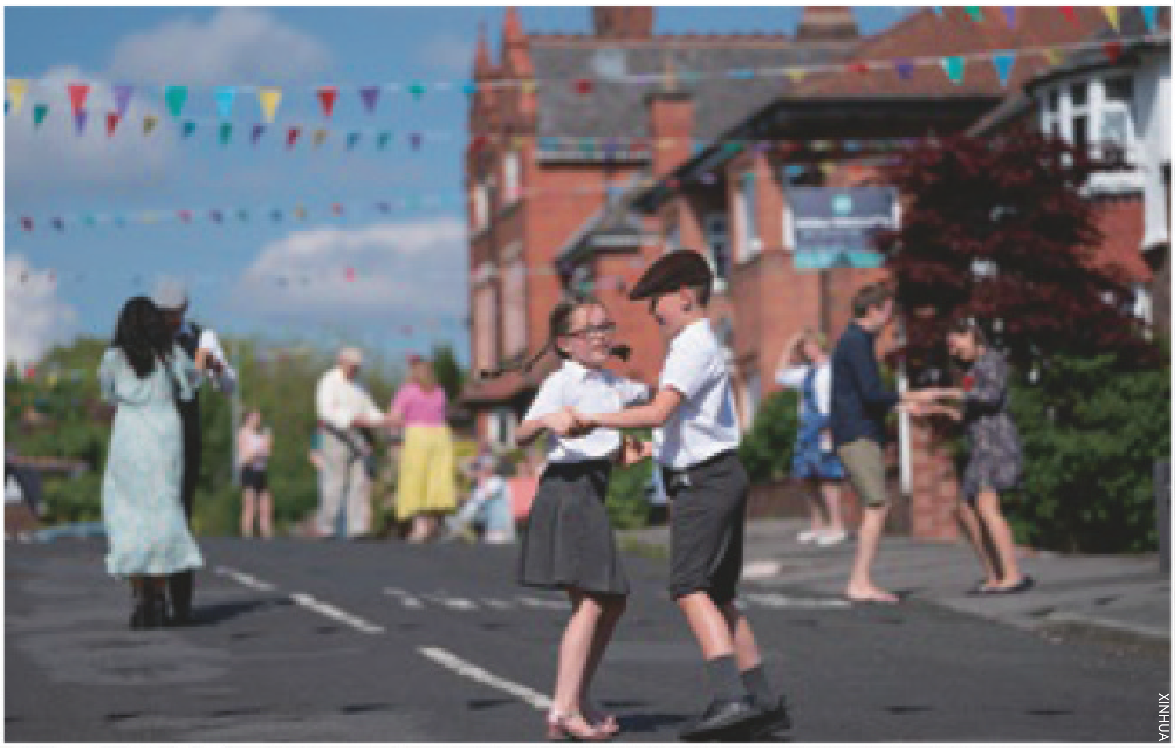
UNITED KINGDOM

A street party in Manchester on May 8 celebrates the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, the day Nazi Germany surrendered to the Allies in 1945



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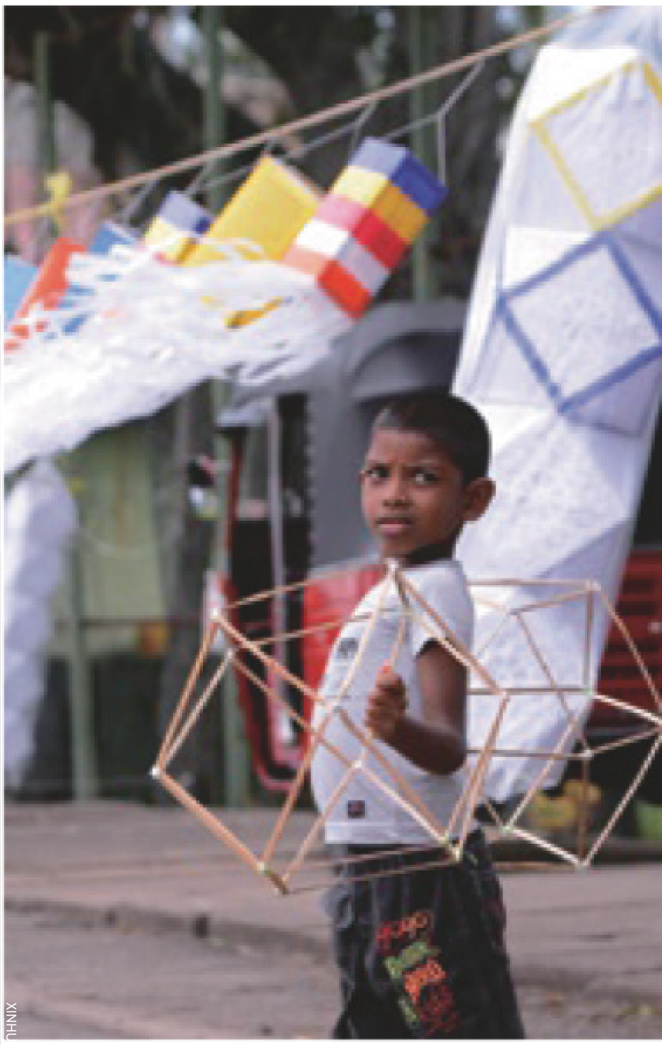

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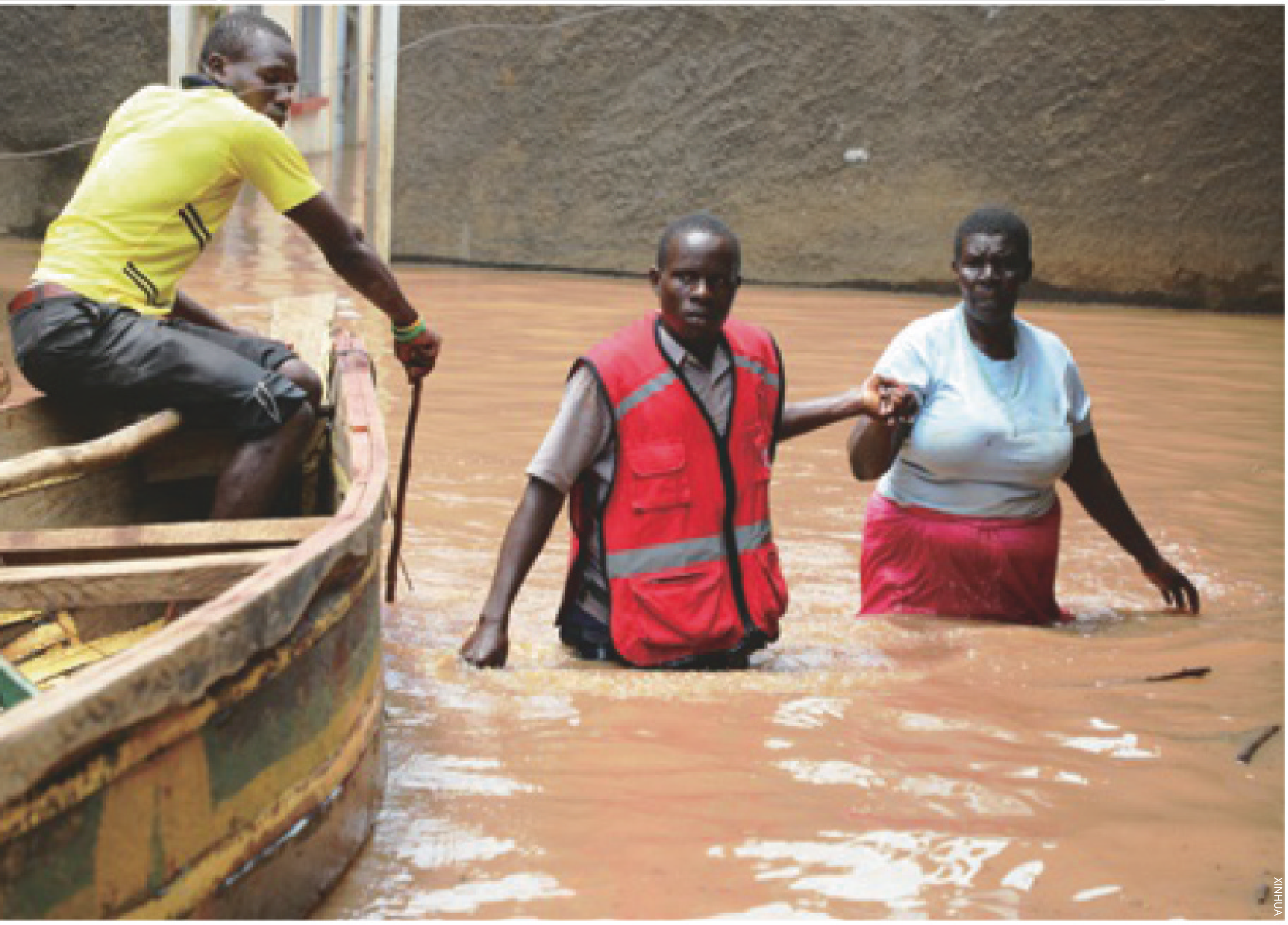

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SRI LANKA

A boy holds the bamboo frame of a traditional white paper lantern, a symbol of Vesak Day, regarded as the day the Buddha was born, obtained enlightenment and passed away, in Colombo on May 6. This year's celebration was muted as the authorities urged people to stay indoor amid the coronavirus outbreak

KENYA

A Red Cross staff helps evacuate a villager in Siaya County on May 5. Floods triggered by heavy rainfall since mid-April had displaced more than 100,000 people in some regions

SHAANXI'S EX-PARTY CHIEF PLEADS GUILTY TO BRIBERY CHARGE

Zhao Zhengyong, former Secretary of the Shaanxi Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), pleaded guilty to accepting bribes of more than 700 million yuan ($99 million) at his trial on May 11. Prosecutors clarified that 291 million yuan ($41.03 million) had not been actually paid.

From 2003 to 2018, Zhao made use of his various posts to favor individuals and departments in project contracting, job promotions and business operations.

Zhao, also a former national legislator, was placed under investigation in January 2019 on suspicion of serious violations of laws and CPC disciplinary rules. He was removed from public office in March 2019.

During the trial, he pleaded guilty and expressed remorse in his final statement. The court in the port city of Tianjin said the sentence will be announced later.

Online Literature

Xinhua Daily Telegraph

May 6

Responding to a new contract drafted by China Literature, an online portal for novels, which could reportedly grant the platform excessive rights to the content it distributes, many authors announced they would stop uploading their stories to the portal. This forced the platform to revise some of its terms.

The development of online literature has created many quality stories for China's culture industry in recent years. By the end of 2019, China had 17.55 million online literature writers and 455 million readers. And the numbers will continue to climb.

The success of web literature was achieved by the joint efforts of authors and platforms. Writers who create excellent works bring portals profits, while they enjoy the support provided by these platforms, such as incentives, training and copyright management services.

Therefore, in the face of disputes, both authors and platforms should reach consensus as soon as possible through rational negotiations.

The industry should consolidate its advantages and fully exploit the value of outstanding online literature. At the same time, platforms should provide more incentives, welfare guarantees and copyright management services to protect the rights and interests of authors.

Enlarging the Educational Force

Guangming Daily

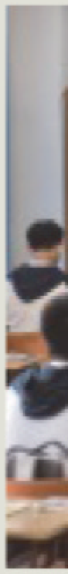
May 8

The Ministry of Education, along with five other authorities, recently unveiled several special projects to ease the employment pressure.

Over 400,000 college graduates will be recruited to teach at elementary, secondary and vocational schools, as well as kindergartens. They will be allowed to start working before taking teacher certification exams until the end of the year as long as they are eligible to apply for the exam and have professional competence.

There will be 8.74 million new college graduates this year facing significant challenges finding jobs amid the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic. Thus, those projects will not only create more employment possibilities but also reserve talent for the development of primary education.

However, some people are concerned that overlooking certification, even temporarily, may lower the overall quality of new teachers. Some noted that the graduates will receive specific training and will still have to meet certain qualifications after recruitment. Since



"Our lab not only has a high level of biosafety infrastructure, we have also established a set of rigorous biosecurity protocols to ensure the lab operates safely and efficiently."

Yuan Zhiming, head of the Wuhan National Biosafety Laboratory, telling *Science and Technology Daily* while detailing how it was impossible for a virus to have been leaked from the lab, on May 10

"Now the U.S. is resorting to discriminatory media visa measures, severely disrupting Chinese media's normal reporting activities in the U.S. and affecting bilateral people-to-people cultural exchanges."

Foreign Ministry spokesperson **Zhao Lijian**, refuting the U.S. decision to restrict visas for Chinese journalists to 90 days at a press briefing on May 11

XINHUA

Students learn on-campus novel coronavirus disease prevention and control rules at No.166 Middle School in Beijing on May 11

certification exams usually focus on theoretical knowledge, they are not the only standard for evaluation.

In recent years, conditions at rural schools have greatly improved along with the promotion of education for poverty alleviation. However, the gap between urban and rural areas still exists, with teachers being the critical factor for improving education. Due to the pandemic, general public budget revenue has declined, which can be a challenge to guarantee good salaries for teachers. Therefore, governments at all levels should adhere to prioritizing education and stabilizing the financial investment in education.

Entrepreneurship Guideline

People's Daily

May 8

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs released a guideline in January to support people returning home to set up businesses, hoping entrepreneurs would create more jobs for people in rural areas to help them shake off poverty.

Entrepreneurship in villages relies on stimulating the vitality of various resources. Along with abundant space, rural areas also enjoy the advantage of a large and flexible labor force.

Choosing a good project is very crucial as it can attract capital, talent and technology to the countryside. Instead of imitating the experience in other areas, people should make targeted plans according to local conditions. Local governments should implement policies to create a sound business environment, which is a necessary support for enterprises to survive a competitive market. Developing a fair, open and transparent environment with high efficiency is one of the most reliable guarantees for people returning home and starting up businesses.

However, local governments should adhere to high quality standards and principles, while drawing up a negative list to avoid problems such as overcapacity.

NEW CEO FOR TROUBLED LUCKIN

Guo Jinyi, Luckin Coffee's senior vice president and co-founder, was appointed acting CEO of the company on May 13 after reports of fabricated transactions in April led to the exit of the former CEO and chief operating officer (COO).

Liu Jian, the former COO and a director of the company, and several employees reporting to him, had engaged in misconduct, including fabricating transactions, according to the company's statement.

The fabricated sales transactions from April to December 2019 amounted to around 2.2 billion yuan ($310 million), according to Luckin's preliminary internal investigation. Subsequently, Liu and CEO Qian Zhiya resigned.

Guo was senior vice president in charge of the product and supply chain since October 2017, and a director since 2018.

Luckin Coffee, founded in 2017, is headquartered in Xiamen, Fujian Province in southeast China. It has built an online-offline model combining its mobile platform and store networks.

> "China has to be culturally aware and much more knowledgeable of how opinion in these [Western] countries works and value its importance in developing cooperation."
>
> **Martin Jacques**, former senior fellow at Cambridge University, in an interview with China Global Television Network on May 12

> "If China further taps into its own market potential and releases individual consumption capacity, after the country's annual per-capita GDP surpassed $10,000 last year, continued economic growth is predicted."
>
> **Fan Gang**, Director of the National Economic Research Institute, at the 2020 Global Venture Capital Online Conference on May 10

COVER STORY

EVERY LIFE COUNTS

Saving elderly patients with COVID-19 is a societal duty By Yuan Yuan

XINHUA

Doctors take an 81-year-old patient to get a CT scan at Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan on April 15

Chen Jingyu arrived at Hankou Railway Station in Wuhan, capital city of Hubei Province in central China, on the night of April 18. As one of China's top lung transplant surgeons and part of a team of national experts in the field, he came with a special mission.

The novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) epidemic in Wuhan had largely been contained by then, with official figures showing there were only 109 confirmed cases in the city that day, including 22 cases displaying severe symptoms. So as medical teams from other provinces and regions were leaving Wuhan, this team was going in the opposite direction.

In People's Hospital of Wuhan University, a patient waited urgently for the team. Cui Zhiqiang, a 65-year-old local, was confirmed with COVID-19 on February 7, and had been on life support for about 60 days.

Cui's condition deteriorated quickly in the hospital. He had to be put on an invasive

▶▶

ventilator on February 17, and then on an extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) artificial lung machine a day later.

During treatment, Cui's nucleic acid test was continuously negative, indicating he was already in the rehabilitation stage. However, both his lungs had been seriously damaged and as a result he had developed irreversible pulmonary fibrosis and respiratory failure due to the virus, which meant he was reliant on the ventilator and ECMO treatment to breathe.

The solution Chen suggested was double-lung transplant, a surgery he had performed successfully on two COVID-19 patients in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province in east China on February 29. It was the first such operation on a COVID-19 patient in the world.

Chen, Vice President of Wuxi People's Hospital and Director of the chest surgery department of China-Japan Friendship Hospital, is known for performing China's first lung transplant operation in 2002.

As a deputy to the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, Chen had submitted a proposal on March 2 to form a national medical team for lung transplantations after he successfully performed the first such surgery on a COVID-19 patient, and his suggestion was adopted by the National Health Commission (NHC).

"Lung transplant is by no means a conventional treatment for COVID-19, since it has strict prerequisites for the patients," Chen told ThePaper.cn, a news portal based in Shanghai. "But clinically it is the only effective way to cure advanced lung lesions."

On April 16, Chen was selected by the NHC as the head of the national lung transplanting team and was assigned to Wuhan. They were tasked with evaluating eight patients with similar conditions and perform lung transplant surgery on those who were deemed suitable candidates.

"Lung transplant surgery needs a combination of many medical resources," Chen told ThePaper.cn. "In the early stage of the epidemic in Wuhan, medical resources were in short supply and it was impossible to conduct such major surgeries. Even now, we still need strong national support to complete this mission."

The journey

On April 19, the team concluded Cui's condition was suitable for a transplant surgery. On the same day, news came from Kunming in Yunnan Province in southwest China that there was a match for Cui, which set the clock ticking for the urgent operation.

Since lungs have to be transplanted within 12 hours after they are made available, the surgery was set for the next day. From Kunming to Wuhan it is about two hours by plane and the surgery takes over six hours, which meant they had only about four hours to transport the lungs.

It was a race against time. At 1:25 p.m., the lungs were removed from the donor's body in Kunming. At 3:09 p.m., the plane carrying them took off. At 4 p.m., Cui was prepped for the operation and at 4:48 p.m., the plane landed in Wuhan. At 5:43 p.m., the lungs were delivered to the operating room and around midnight, the surgery was completed successfully.

The surgeons had to wear protective suits and surgical headgear, which made communication very difficult, so they had to perform the surgery based on experience and tacit understanding. The doctors left the operating room soaked in sweat.

The successful surgery was just the first step.

Cui had to pass through several challenges after the surgery. The long period of bed rest had enervated his muscles and his muscle strength was at zero. A team of 35 doctors and nurses from three hospitals was formed to monitor Cui 24 hours a day to make sure his new lungs adapted to his body.

On April 22, after 44 hours of intensive care, the ECMO machine was successfully removed and the new lungs functioned on their own. A series of rehabilitation plans designed by the hospital helped Cui to make a video call to his family on May 6, two weeks after the surgery.

Before the surgery, Cui held the record of being the patient with the longest period under ECMO treatment in the world. But it was soon broken by a patient named Liu Qiang in Wuhan Union Hospital affiliated to Huazhong University of Science and Technology, who was on ECMO treatment for 73 days before he got a lung transplantation on April 24. Only 10 percent of his lungs were functioning and he had suffered damage to other organs as well.

"We are not sure whether he will survive the surgery, but if we don't do it, he will 100 percent die," Dong Nianguo, an expert at the hospital, said before the surgery. "We will spare no efforts to save lives, even if we only have 1 percent hope."

Liu's matching lungs were delivered by plane from Shandong Province in east China. Chen and Dong were among the surgeons in the operating room, and the surgery lasted five and a half hours.

Adapting to his new lungs was a bigger challenge for Liu, as he faced large fluctuations in blood pressure and heart rate, as well as shocks and blood clots. The medical team took turns keeping a close eye on Liu for three days. Finally, he was taken off the ECMO machine on May 6, two weeks after the surgery, and was able to breathe on his own. He gave the medical team a big thumbs-up from his bed.

Liu Qiang gives the medical staff a thumbs-up at Wuhan Union Hospital on May 8

XINHUA

XINHUA

Wang Xin, an 87-year-old COVID-19 patient, and his doctor watch the sunset on their way back from a CT scan at Renmin Hospital of Wuhan University in Hubei Province on March 5

In total, 141 medical workers were involved in saving Liu's life. "After the surgery, we needed to take a CT scan," Chen said. "But the CT scan area was in another building and the road to it was narrow and bumpy. The hospital spent the whole night paving the road with cement, which was very impressive."

On May 8, Chen and his team left Wuhan, but since the battle to control the epidemic in the country continues, the team is ready to go anywhere at any time to save patients needing lung transplantations. "The whole process of COVID-19 treatment is like a relay and we are reaching for the final baton to save every possible life," Chen said.

Most beautiful sunset

Since the outbreak, President Xi Jinping has stressed on many occasions that the top priority must be people's lives and health and that the people's interests must be put above all else.

In this vein, the Chinese Government announced that the cost of treating confirmed and suspected COVID-19 patients will be covered by the government. Based on the figures released by the National Healthcare Security Administration on April 11, the average cost for one patient is 21,500 yuan ($3,000). For a patient with severe symptoms, the cost can be up to 150,000 yuan ($21,000), while for a small group of severely symptomatic patients, the cost could surpass 1 million yuan ($141,000). By April 6, China had spent 1.49 billion yuan ($209.5 million) on COVID-19 treatment.

"China would rather bear the pressure of an economic downturn to save every life at any cost," said Zhong Nanshan, an academician at the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

On March 5, a photo of a doctor with a patient sitting on a hospital bed watching the setting sun went viral. The doctor, wearing a protective suit, stood by the bed as they both watched the sun in the open air.

The doctor had wheeled the patient's bed to the CT scan room in another building to get him tested. On their way back to the ward, they saw the beautiful sunset and he asked the patient, Wang Xin, if he would like to stop there for a few minutes and enjoy it. Wang smiled and said yes. The scene was captured by a volunteer behind them who posted the photo online. Many netizens labeled the photo "the most beautiful sunset."

Wang, 87, is a violinist in a local orchestra in Wuhan. He recalled his 58-day treatment at People's Hospital of Wuhan University as a battle with death.

He was sent to the hospital with fever on February 11. By then, he could only lie in bed. He had initially refused any treatment and wouldn't even talk to his family over the phone. For over 20 days, the medical staff cleaned him, fed him and talked to him. Gradually, he gained strength and on March 5, the day of the photo, he was out of danger.

Wang's condition continued to improve. He was able to stand up and walk short distances, then longer distances. When he was in a good mood, he played his violin, which was with him the entire time, for other patients in the ward.

On April 9, he was discharged. At the gate of the hospital, he gave the medical staff tearful hugs. His daughter said her father's recovery was a miracle. "For a patient of my father's age, any calamity can be fatal," she said to a local media in Wuhan. "It is a hard-won victory."

During the epidemic, Wuhan faced thousands of challenges. Figures from the NHC showed that in Wuhan, more than 3,600 people over 80 years recovered, translating to a recovery rate of over 70 percent.

"Many elderly patients had preexisting conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure and other organ dysfunctions before they were infected with COVID-19," Zhang Jun, a doctor with Wuhan Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), told China Central Television. "This added more difficulties to treating this group." Many treatment methods had to be adjusted. "That meant we had to spend more time taking care of them and keeping a close eye on them," Zhang added.

Xu Ming, a 95-year-old, arrived with severe symptoms on February 9. The hospital arranged specialized nurses to monitor Xu's conditions. Since he didn't react well to antiviral drugs, doctors decided to use TCM to boost his overall immune system and it proved to be very effective.

"Seniors are more inclined to be pessimistic of their condition," said Yu Liping, a nurse at the hospital. "We all have seniors in our family, so we talked to these patients as if they were our own grandparents, soothing them." Every day, when they had time, the nurses chatted with Xu.

After two weeks, Xu recovered and walked home by himself on February 23. On April 16, he returned to the hospital with other patients over 80 who had recovered at the hospital to thank the medical staff. "I am looking forward to living to 100!" he said.

Jiao Yahui, the official responsible for medical administration and supervision at the NHC, said, "Seniors' treatment plan must be tailored to their physical condition after a comprehensive evaluation." She added that so far, the oldest recovered patient is 108. ■

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AN ARDUOUS BUT WARM JOURNEY

Care and compassion makes an overseas returnee's journey to China less stressful

By Xia Yuanyuan

It was late March and the number of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in the U.S. was surging. My classes had moved online, and it was crunch time for me. Should I stay or should I go? I thought long and hard before deciding to cut short my studies as a visiting scholar in the School of Journalism, University of Missouri, and head back home to Beijing.

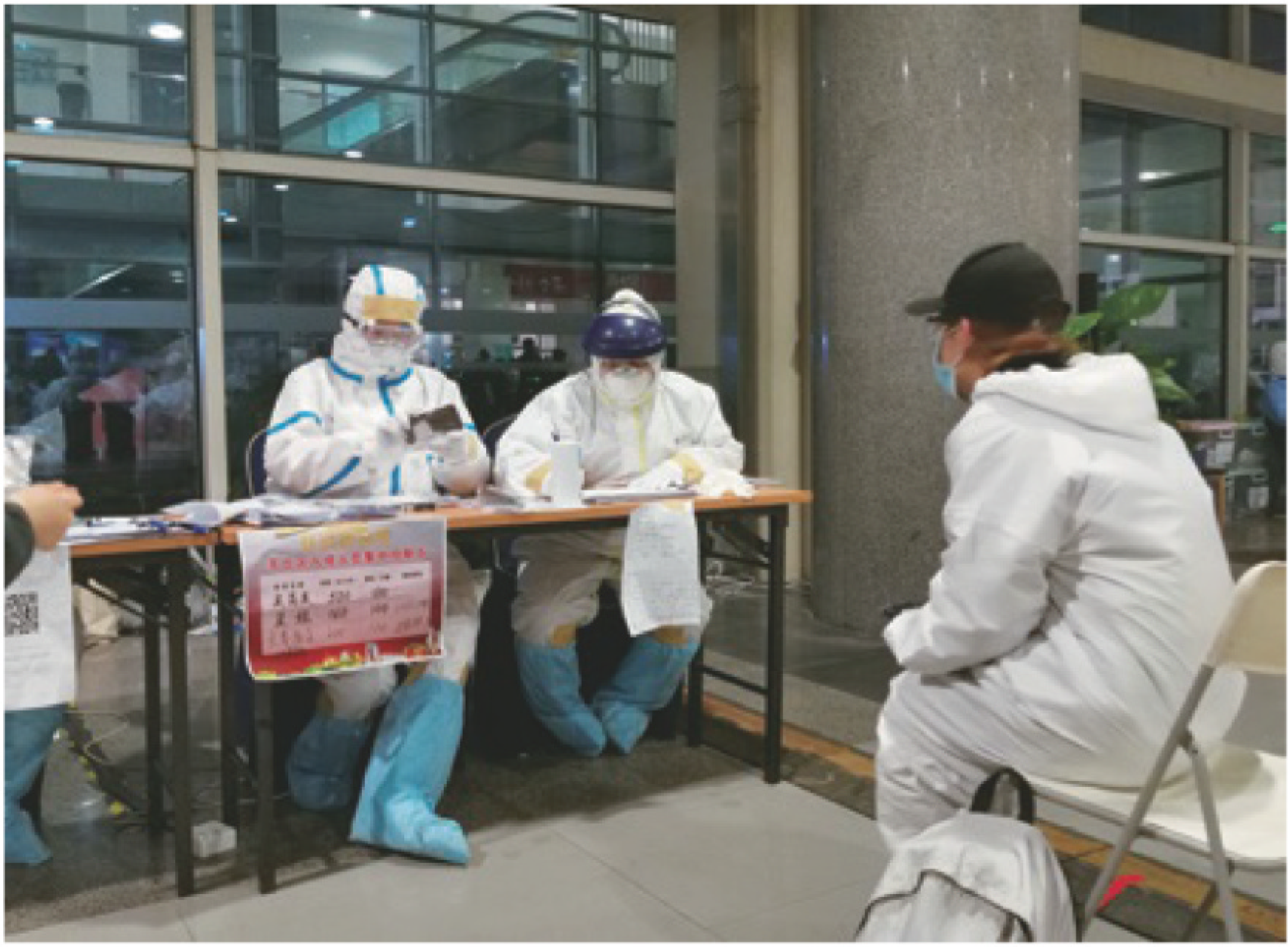
Before departure I psyched myself up into the right frame of mind. Faced with a global pandemic, international travel was going to be no picnic, and despite being prepared mentally, the stress of the journey was far beyond my expectations.

On the evening of March 24, I finally landed safely in Beijing. My family and friends comforted me, sending messages, "How lucky you are!" "Getting back safely is more than you could ask for."

Yes, I am indeed lucky. But I know that a large part of the reason that I am safe and writing this account is because of the strict pandemic prevention measures carried out by the Chinese Government. The dedication and sacrifice of all involved helped make a harrowing period of my life one filled with care.

Welcome home

On March 22, I arrived at the Los Angeles International Airport after a five-hour flight from St. Louis, the city closest to the university I studied in. It was a rainy and cold day. I was already exhausted, shuffling along with my heavy suitcases.



XIA YUANYUAN

Two staff members of the New China International Exhibition Center in Beijing help an inbound passenger choose a designated hotel for medical observation on March 24

At the check-in counter of Air China, though it was five hours before the boarding time, the queues were already long. Most passengers were Chinese, who were armed to the teeth with personal protective equipment. Face masks, goggles, hazmat suits, and even raincoats were common sights. I was one of them. The pandemic made travelers jittery and extra precautions were being taken as air travel was proved to expose passengers to high risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Before checking in, every passenger was asked to fill out forms detailing one's personal information and travel history. My body temperature was then taken and recorded. I was given a form indicating I met the requirements to board.

This was not the only time that my temperature was checked. In fact, I was tested about 10 times during the entire trip. If one fails the test there is no chance to board the flight.

"Welcome aboard! Welcome home!" said an attendant wearing a hazmat suit, face mask and goggles. Though the attendants looked alien like and surreal, yet after experiencing fear, anxiety and tiredness, I became joyful when I heard their warm greeting. It was a touching moment for me.

XIA YUANYUAN

An attendant of Air China dressed in a hazmat suit guides passengers to fill in the health declaration form required by customs on March 23

To ensure passengers' safety, airlines took special measures such as disinfecting the aircraft cabins and removing items like pillows and blankets to reduce the risk of infection.

Before landing in Beijing, attendants measured our temperature again and presented us with health declaration forms.

After passengers disembarked a plane, the terminal was disinfected. Once again our temperatures were checked by health officials and at passport and customs control, all officials wore full protective suits.

After collecting disinfected luggage we were all transported to the New China International Exhibition Center in Shunyi District, Beijing, and then our medical observation site for the next two weeks.

In retrospect, there is no doubt that all these extensive measures played an important role in controlling the spread of imported COVID-19 cases into the country.

Quarantine experience

Beijing has set up over 200 medical observation sites for people entering the city from overseas, who are required to undergo a 14-day quarantine to prevent imported COVID-19 cases.

Inbound travelers at the sites are offered a single room, with meals and disinfection supplies.

After a short ride and a warm late-night welcome, I found a clinical thermometer, disinfectant spray and information about COVID-19 in my comfortable room.

A WeChat (Chinese microblogging) group had been set up for the whole building, which had doctors participating, to either check temperatures or offer health and psychological counseling services. Every traveler were required to submit two body temperature readings daily. Three nutritious meals were provided daily, left outside our doors.

Prior to my quarantine, I had read of people complaining online about the measure of quarantine and the unsanitary conditions of the quarantine sites.

Personally, I felt a sense of dignity and humanity in how we were cared for. On the second day of quarantine, I received a message from the hotel service staff saying: "My dear friend, the inconvenience now, for the time being, is for your health, ours, and everybody else's. Quarantine is against virus, and not an isolation of warm hearts. We stand together with you."

Looking at the effort being made by the hotel staff around me in their sweaty, protective suits to ensure my wellbeing and safety, I had no reason to complain.

When my quarantine ended, I left the hotel and returned to my normal life, but they continued to fight the pandemic.

I am grateful to them and all the other selfless people for their care for me and other travelers. They are all my heroes.

Love from motherland

Fortunately, I was cleared and released from quarantine and safely returned home. I shared the good news with my friend, Wen Xiang, who was still in Missouri at the time.

Wen told me she and all other overseas students were given health packages, which included face masks, disinfectant, sanitizers and guidelines for self-protection, along with a message of solidarity from the Chinese embassy in the U.S.

China has about 1.6 million students studying abroad. Some returned home after the COVID-19 outbreak, about 1.42 million remain in their host countries and regions, according to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

As of early April, the ministry had distributed more than 500,000 health packages worldwide to protect overseas students. Wen showed me her package when we had a video chat.

As protective items are not always easy to find in supermarkets and pharmacies around the world, this is the best gift overseas students could have at this time.

"It warmed my heart," Wen told me. "I have a sense of security because of the warmth and love from the motherland. I know I am not alone."

After what I have been through, I cannot agree with her more. ■

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GATHERING STEAM

China supports enterprises and individuals to counter epidemic-induced headwinds By Li Xiaoyang

XINHUA

Loquat growers and e-commerce sellers promote loquat products via live-streaming under the guidance of professionals in Tangqi Town of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province in east China, on May 9. The local government has organized e-commerce live-streaming classes for them to develop skills for online promotion

After resigning and returning to his hometown Da'an County in Hunan Province in central China for a new job at the end of last year, 23-year-old Tian Wei met with difficulties in finding a new job due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus. However, the predicament did not last long. With the help of the human resources department of the local government, Tian went to work for automaker BYD in Changsha, capital of Hunan, in car model production in March when enterprises across the country started to resume production.

"I once did similar work in Guangdong Province, south China. After joining BYD, I got about 2,100 yuan ($296) in around two weeks. That met my expectations," Tian told *Hunan Daily*. According to him, before taking up his new job, he along with other new staff had been sent to a health examination by the local government.

BYD in Changsha resumed production on February 10 after the extended Lunar New Year holiday. Despite challenges caused by the delayed return of employees, shortage of raw materials and suspended transportation, it managed to resume work with the help of the local government, according to the company.

To ensure stable economic performance amid the epidemic, the central and local governments in China have provided consistent support over the past months to enterprises and individuals to resume business activities and overcome virus-induced difficulties. Besides facilitating businesses and introducing tax and fee reductions for enterprises, the government has given support to the most-affected groups including migrant workers, graduates and farmers.

A boost to businesses

After the epidemic forced people to stay indoors, Laixianghui Dumpling, a restaurant chain based in Beijing, saw its business dwindle. But it was able to restore half of its normal delivery business by the May Day holiday, though the number of people dining at the restaurant was still only one third of the normal, Wang Tingjun, Chairman of the company, told *Beijing Review*.

"With the support of the government of Xicheng District, we have opened roadside booths with processed food that can be easily cooked. That brings a revenue of around 7,000 yuan ($988) per day to one of our restaurants in the district," he said. While roadside booths were limited to prevent occupying pedestrian lanes, many regions eased the control during the epidemic to support the affected businesses.

Like Laixianghui, many small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), micro firms and self-employed business operators in China, especially those in the catering and retail industries, have seen unprecedented difficulties such as shortage of labor, rising costs and low demand since the epidemic outbreak. Foreign trade companies and foreign-funded enterprises also faced headwinds as the epidemic spread across the world and dampened global investors' enthusiasm.

According to a report released by Tsinghua People's Bank of China School of Finance (Tsinghua PBCSF) in April, the revenue of several millions of domestic SMEs and micro enterprises totaled around 1.6 trillion yuan ($225 billion) in the first quarter of this year, only 48.8 percent of that in the corresponding period last year.

As Li Pengfei, a researcher with Tsinghua PBCSF, told *News China* magazine, the catering, hotel and tourism industries focusing on offline businesses as well as foreign trade enterprises with long supply chains have been severely affected by the epidemic.

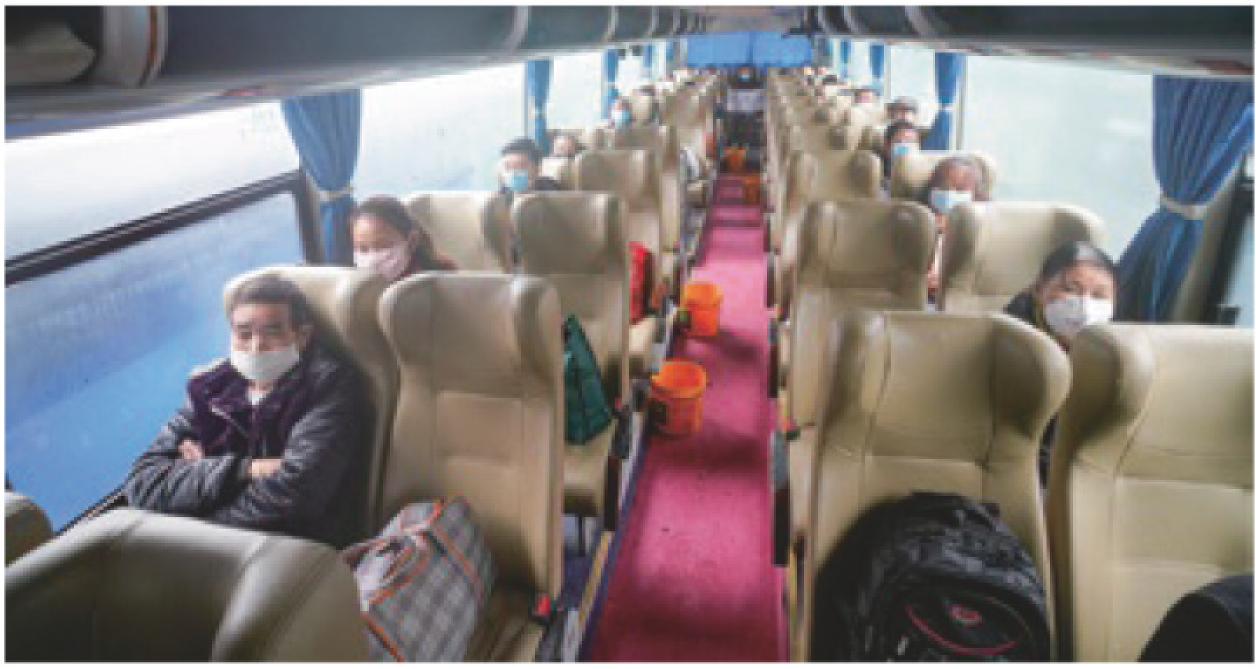
To boost the domestic economy, stabilize employment and drive foreign trade, the Chinese Government has launched measures including fast approval for work resumption, support in procurement of anti-epidemic supplies and coordination of resources for enterprises relying on long supply chains.

According to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, 84 percent of SMEs had restarted as of April 15. Data from the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) also showed that 72.8 percent of the surveyed foreign-funded firms in China, totaling around 8,700, had resumed 70 percent of their production as of April 14.

According to an executive meeting of the State Council on May 6, the government has reduced value-added tax for enterprises and household business operators, encouraged banks to provide targeted loans to small firms

XINHUA

Staff of automaker BYD work on the assembly line in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province in northwest China, on February 25



XINHUA

Migrant workers in Nanchuan, Chongqing in southwest China, take a charter bus to return to work on February 23

and household businesses, lowered or waived employers' social insurance contributions and deferred their payment of the housing provident fund.

Starting from late February, all types of enterprises in Hubei Province, central China, which was hit hard by the epidemic, have enjoyed exemption of pension, unemployment and work-related injury insurance premiums, which will last until June.

For small businesses, consumption coupons have been distributed through digital payment platforms such as Alibaba's Alipay and Tencent's WeChat Pay in many areas. Data from Alipay showed that over 100 cities had handed out consumption coupons to local residents through its app as of May 6, driving around 5 billion yuan ($704 million) of sales during the May Day holiday.

On April 1, MOFCOM introduced measures to support foreign-funded firms and stabilize foreign investment, including widening the market access for foreign investors and facilitating business resumption. With the supporting policies, China's large market remains appealing for global investors. Multinationals such as the U.S. retail giant Costco, Japan-based Toyota and the coffee giant Starbucks have all unveiled plans to expand presence in the Chinese market.

Support to individuals

To help vulnerable groups cope with the impact of the epidemic, the government has provided support for migrant workers, farmers and new graduates to ensure employment. Several charter buses, trains and flights have been arranged for migrant workers to return to work in order to ease the difficulties caused by labor shortages for enterprises, especially those in provinces such as Guangdong.

Epidemic prevention and control measures including health checks and disinfection are implemented before the trips. To reduce cross-infection risks, the number of passengers is controlled. According to a press conference of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS) on April 21, nearly 5.9 million migrant workers were transported in charter buses or trains to the regions where they work.

Supporting measures have also been introduced to help key groups of job-seekers including rural migrant workers and fresh college graduates. Rural migrant workers have received support in finding jobs in their hometowns or nearby cities.

The country is expected to see 8.74 million new college graduates this year, up 400,000 from a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Education. The MOHRSS has encouraged online hiring and provided financial support to small firms to ensure job creation. Unemployment insurance and vocational training subsidies have been provided to help enterprises retain existing jobs.

As the epidemic caused disruptions in the transportation and marketing of agricultural products, the government enhanced efforts to stabilize agricultural production and encourage online sales to support farmers. Many local officials have attended live-streaming sessions to help boost sales of agricultural products. E-commerce through live-streaming has played a key role in helping reduce economic losses in China's virus-hit regions, especially Hubei, as people are encouraged to buy products from the province to help it turn the corner.

Zhou Lin, Deputy Mayor of Jingyu County in Jilin Province, northeast China, which shook off poverty this year, promoted local nuts through live-streaming on March 11, selling 36,500 kg of nut products in a single day.

"Since some farmers are unfamiliar with e-commerce, local officials' participation in the live-streaming can enhance their confidence in trying the new mode and attract a large number of consumers in a short period of time," Di Lake, Deputy Director of the in-house research institute of the e-commerce platform Pinduoduo, told *National Business Daily*.

Seeking solutions

Although enterprises and household business owners have accelerated business resumption, difficulties caused by the epidemic are still haunting them. "Problems such as shortage of funds and rising costs are not yet fully addressed for many SMEs. It will take time before offline sales completely recover," Pan Helin, Acting Dean of the Digital Economy Institute at the Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, told *Beijing Review*.

The government needs to ease access to financing for businesses and drive up domestic demand. The key is to ensure employment and income, which will help sustain consumer spending, he stressed.

Enterprises and individuals are also encouraged to make endeavors to tide over the difficulties. As Pan suggested, SMEs and household businesses can adopt business modes such as live-streaming, delivery service and digital coupons to sharpen their edge, while foreign trade enterprises can tap into the domestic market to boost sales. ■

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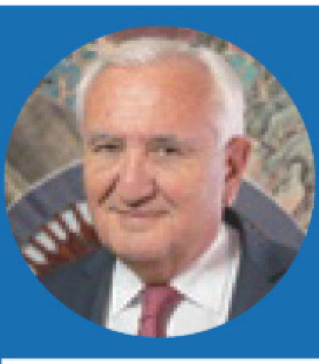
For Better Global Governance

On May 7, the Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies affiliated to publishing conglomerate China International Publishing Group and The Bridge Tank, a French think tank, hosted a webinar on China-France cooperation and how the two countries can jointly promote a more just and equitable global governance in the post-epidemic era. Following the China-France Global Governance Forum in Paris in 2019, this webinar was the latest initiative to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on global governance between the two countries. This is an edited excerpt of what was said:

Kong Quan


Jean-Pierre Raffarin

Du Zhanyuan

Joël Ruet

Zhu Guangyao

Kong Quan, Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and former Chinese Ambassador to France

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown its global impact, with the world economy pushed off a cliff, people-to-people exchanges suspended and international relations stressed. In this complex, multi-factor situation, China and France should adhere to seeking common ground while shelving differences, continuing joint pursuit of multilateralism, and promoting globalization through further opening up and cooperation.

China does have differences with France and also Europe in many aspects. However, since the establishment of China-France diplomatic ties 56 years ago, and China-EU relations 45 years ago, China and European countries have never tried to interfere in one another's internal affairs, but chosen to respect the diversity of civilizations. It is these differences that have brought us exchanges, mutual learning and cooperation. Both sides agree that the current multilateral system, with the United Nations at its core, embodies equality and consultation and helps to maintain peace and development. It should be safeguarded and improved with joint efforts.

Jean-Pierre Raffarin, former French Prime Minister

The first point of post-pandemic France-China cooperation should be the search for global governance that brings everyone to the table. Countries that are in favor of multilateralism, including France and China, must work to avoid the quagmire of a new cold war. We should avoid being locked into conflicting relations that weaken global governance.

Our two countries share a vision of what a common partnership can look like in the future. France and China are committed both to their national sovereignty and to international cooperation. Our common stand is to safeguard sovereignty and promote cooperation, not to choose one or the other.

However, multilateralism today no longer meets all demands. For example, the United Nations is incapable of managing certain conflicts and it causes other dissatisfactions. It must therefore be rethought to make it more relevant to contemporary society.

Du Zhanyuan, President of the China International Publishing Group

Countries including China and France have adopted specific and effective measures in the light of their own conditions to tackle the pandemic. They have also improved their national governance system during this time. However, mounting populism and racism in some countries continue to challenge our belief in globalization.

Globalization follows a historical trend that will not be changed by any individual or the policies of a certain country. We need cooperation, inclusiveness and solidarity to safeguard globalization. We should pay more attention to common interests and pursue win-win cooperation. We should discard the obsolete zero-sum-game way of thinking and be more inclusive. Countries should reject the law of the jungle, and work together without prejudice and hatred.

What the international community needs most now is confidence to face up to challenges and overcome difficulties together. Globalization is an irreversible trend and a common goal that countries should always pursue. Only with firm belief can we find a way out.

Joël Ruet, President of The Bridge Tank

The world we live in is in turbulence because of the pandemic. Against this backdrop, it is necessary for France and China to carry out in-depth and high-level communication.

Today's world is inundated with fake news and blame games. The truth will slowly emerge from the pandemic, but the economic impact is already being felt. Globalization is the common property of the world, and public health security, trade and climate stability are its important aspects. So countries need to think more about how we can work together. People-to-people exchanges should be strengthened as they are conducive to defeating fake news.

Zhu Guangyao, Counsellor of the State Council of China and former Vice Finance Minister

The immediate task for countries is to address the uncertainties—the duration of the outbreak, the suffering global economy, the global supply and industrial chains, and the global governance system, which have been impacted by the crisis.

The pandemic would have a considerable impact on globalization in four aspects: the security of industrial and supply chains, the relocation of health and pharmaceutical industries, the coordination of regional policies to jointly deal with challenges, and the development of the digital economy.

As permanent members of the UN Security Council, China and France shoulder the mission of maintaining world peace, development and stability. We must play a bigger role in many aspects such as the economy, traditional security, public health, environmental protection as well as climate change, and continue to play a leading role in upholding multilateralism.

Edmond Alphandéry, former French Minister of Economy and former President of Electricité de France

Climate change remains a common challenge facing the whole world, which requires continued efforts amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

In 2017, China unveiled a nationwide carbon emission trading system in a step toward establishing a national carbon market. As the two most important carbon emission trading markets in the world, China and the EU, despite respective shortcomings, can work together to achieve their missions. There is a lot of evidence that infectious diseases are actually linked to climate change. Fight against climate change should never stop and we need to contribute more than ever to reduce carbon emissions.

Li Daokui, Director of the Institute for China's Economic Practice and Thinking, Tsinghua University

Human society is now facing the most serious challenges since the end of World War II. The pandemic is so widespread that no country is immune. The first fallout from the outbreak was a surge in unemployment. The second one is politicians making self-serving attempts to blame countries including China, leading to a wave of anti-globalization and anti-free trade which is bound to harm the consumers and labor forces of their own countries.

We call on think tanks and the elite in China and France to unequivocally reject politicians' rhetoric about accountability and paying compensation. The policymakers of the two countries should strengthen communication and make joint efforts to minimize the pandemic's impact on the economy and speed up its recovery.

Pascal Petit, professor at the French National Center for Scientific Research

The world needs to better coordinate relations at the national, regional and international levels so as to deal with the crisis. Upholding multilateralism, countries need to improve policies and institutions in public health, invest more in scientific research and find solutions as soon as possible. Despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic, this could also be an opportunity for the world to turn to green development.

Yao Yang, Dean of the National School of Development of Peking University

Countries have adjusted their monetary policies since the outbreak. The U.S. Federal Reserve has unveiled unlimited quantitative easing, an aggressive move to prop up the economy, followed by the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan. This kind of move will actually cause instability in global financial markets and impact various economies. Measures are needed to coordinate the monetary policies of countries. Only in this way can the world economy enjoy steady growth.

Zheng Xinye, Dean of the School of Applied Economics, Renmin University of China

Although voices of deglobalization or anti-globalization have been heard, there are also strong forces that support globalization and free trade. In the post-pandemic era, peace and development remain the major themes of the world. China and France should take action to jointly revitalize the world economy by coordinating fiscal, financial and monetary policies. The two countries should also integrate solutions to the current crisis, long-term development and global governance so as to promote the sustainable development of globalization.

Pierre-Noel Giraud, professor of economics at Mines ParisTech

In the post-pandemic era, globalization will continue its course, especially in the digital economy and financial sector. However, multilateralism is threatened by hegemony. Though countries now are more interdependent, reform is urgently needed. For example, we can think about how to incorporate the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative into future discussions of multilateralism. ■

Edmond Alphandéry

Li Daokui,

Pascal Petit

Yao Yang

Zheng Xinye

Pierre-Noel Giraud

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An Important Partnership

As China-EU ties turn 45, the coronavirus outbreak offers new chances for greater consolidation

By George N. Tzogopoulos

The author is EU-China Program director at the Centre International de Formation Européenne

The novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has plunged the world into uncertainty with the impact on public health and the economy still beyond exact assessment as the crisis is ongoing. Theoretically, the pain and anxiety about the future should be the reason for deeper international cooperation but the difference between words and deeds is vast.

The growing U.S. antagonism toward China has overshadowed the global battle against the virus. Social stigma has been a critical problem from the very beginning, aggravating tensions. However, there are other examples that generate more optimism. One example is the evolving China-EU partnership.

Fighting a world crisis

Some lessons can be learned if we go back to January, a phase of uncertainty for China and relaxation for the West. The Chinese Government responded in a decisive way to control COVID-19, publicly admitting flaws in the management of the situation by the local authorities in Wuhan, the city in central China where the outbreak in China was first reported.

President Xi Jinping, who said the virus caught China by surprise in his address at the Extraordinary Group of 20 Leaders' Summit in March, led the efforts to provide medical assistance, contain the contagion and share the effective containment practices.

The lockdown of Wuhan, in particular, has today become a typical procedure for some Western countries, including in Europe, which are imposing similar policies and their citizens have become used to staying home. It was an unprecedented, draconian measure decided under extremely delicate conditions that proved to be successful and helped China to place the virus under control.

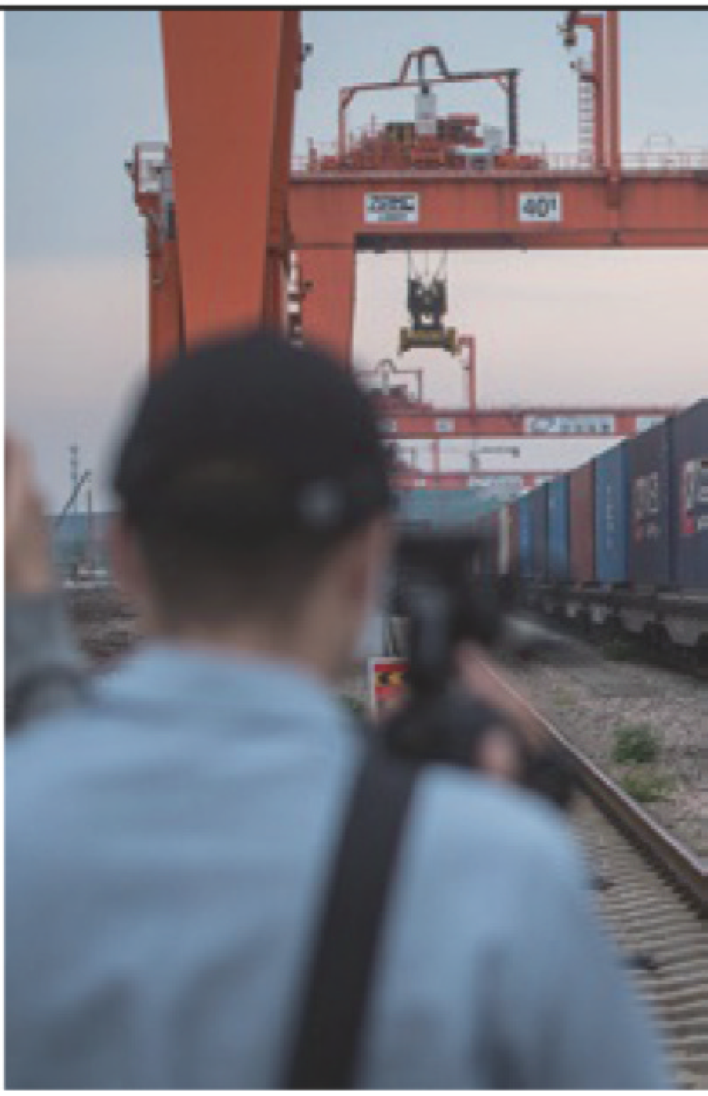
Countries that followed the Chinese paradigm have managed to protect their people. Others have seen their number of fatalities soar. The numbers speak for themselves. In the final count, the pandemic is a public health crisis. It's about human life, which is of equal value irrespective of gender, race, age or income.

At the outset of the crisis, the EU and several European states provided China medical assistance. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the EU delivered 56 tons of equipment in February. China publicly expressed gratitude for that.

The problem for Brussels is that it was entrapped in the thinking that the virus would respect borders. This became evident during the Munich Security Conference in mid-February that focused on the theme Westlessness—the loss of common standing of what it means to be part of the Wests—as if the problem of world health had been sufficiently addressed. Only Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi focused on COVID-19.

When the epidemic struck Europe a few weeks later, it was China's turn to provide medical aid to EU member states and non-EU countries, including Serbia, Switzerland and the UK.

Ironically, the exchange of medical assistance has been highly politicized in the Western discourse, including in Europe, running parallel with acknowledgments. It is being scrutinized and connected to alleged Chinese motivations in shaping the narrative about COVID-19.

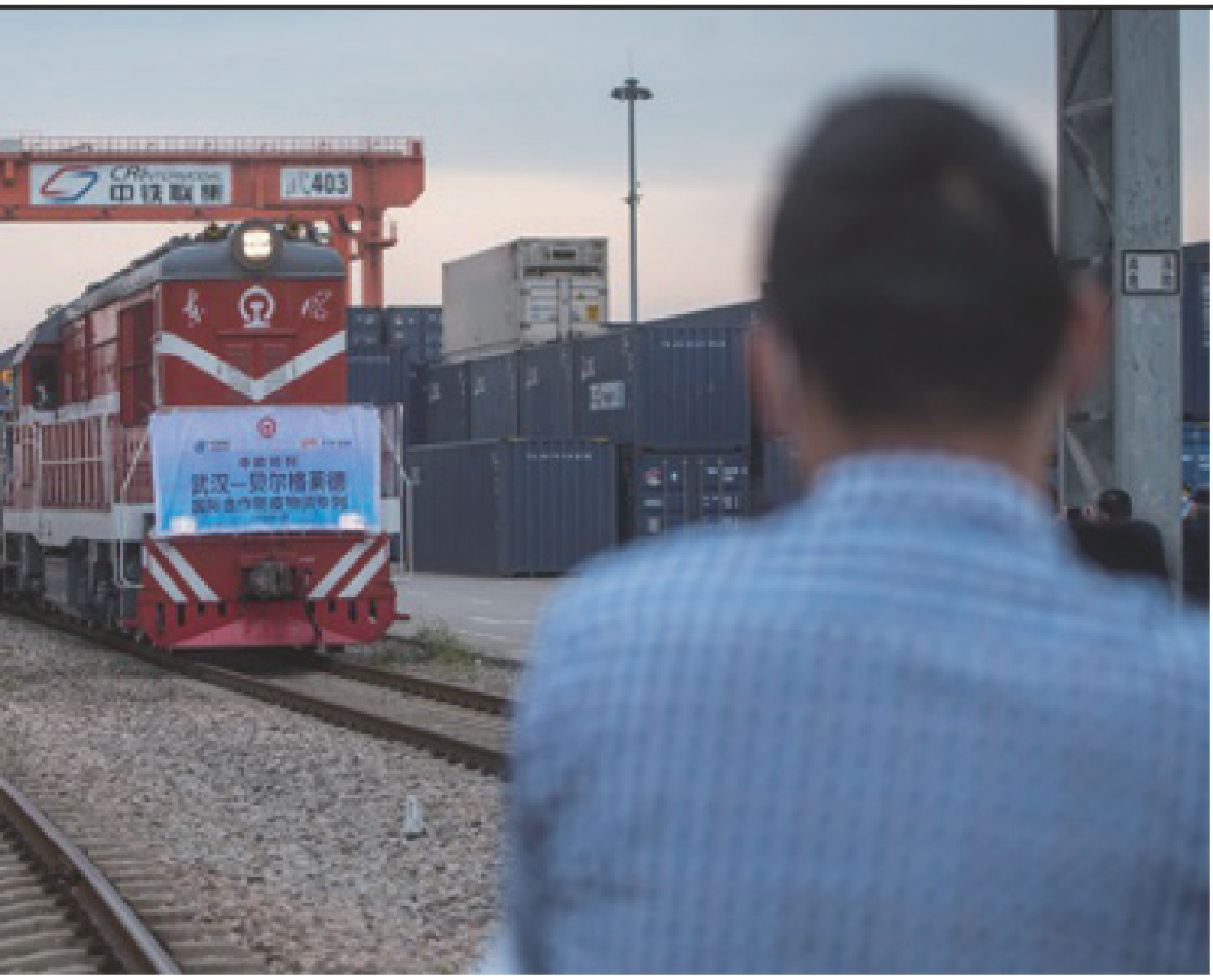


A China-Europe freight train carrying anti-epidemic supplies departs from the Wujiashan Railway Container Center Station in Wuhan, Hubei Province in central China, on May 9

But despite some politicization, the tone in Europe vis-à-vis China is milder in comparison to that of the U.S. Although this obviously depends on the specific country on the European continent, this is the general attitude. EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell said he regards China as an important partner in an interview with Euronews. He also said he prefers to concentrate on the potential solution of problems and look for synergies.

Video calls during the pandemic have shown the common will for cooperation. On March 13, a China-Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) virtual conference on COVID-19 saw government officials and medical experts from the grouping of 17+1 countries engage in an in-depth exchange of views on how to tackle the disease in a scientific way. A few days later, the Chinese Foreign Ministry and National Health Commission held an online meeting with 18 European countries including the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Switzerland.

Additionally, Chinese Minister of Commerce Zhong Shan has been in regular contact with EU Trade Commissioner Phil Hogan and Internal Market and Services Commissioner Thierry Breton. And recent data from the China State Railway Group shows that the number of



XINHUA

XINHUA

Officials and medical experts from the Lithuanian Ministry of Health, hospitals and research institutes take part in a video conference with their counterparts from China and other Central and Eastern European countries in Vilnius, Lithuania, on March 13

China-Europe freight trains hit a record monthly high in April.

In May, four months after the Chinese authorities diagnosed the novel coronavirus in Wuhan, the world has acquired more experience about the problem. Research is ongoing and new questions are being raised. Scientists from the Pasteur Institute in France, for instance, have conducted a new study demonstrating that the outbreak of COVID-19 in France was not caused by cases imported from China but from a locally circulating strain of unknown origin.

It is the responsibility of researchers to further elaborate on the sequencing of the genome of the virus in different regions and countries in order to reach infallible conclusions and provide advice to politicians to prevent a second wave. China and Europe need to intensify their joint efforts against COVID-19 with the use of new technologies.

Future partnership

This year, China and the EU are celebrating 45 years of their diplomatic ties. The beginning of 2020 looked promising for the evolution of the partnership. Discussions about an investment agreement were expected to progress, notwithstanding thorny issues. Three important events were anticipated to give new impetus to the relationship: the China-EU annual summit that was scheduled for March, the China-CEEC meeting, and the special China-EU Summit to be held in Leipzig, Germany under the German presidency of the EU in the second half of the year.

Though the novel coronavirus outbreak has temporarily altered the agenda and caused disruption, it should not be seen only as a crisis but also as a chance for the two sides. As Zhang Ming, head of the Chinese Mission to the EU, said, "To address global challenges such as climate change, unsustainable development, regional and international conflicts, the community of nations must overcome geographical distance and ideological differences, and engage in broad-based and in-depth cooperation."

U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to halt funding to the World Health Organization (WHO) means China and the EU can do more together to preserve multilateralism. They will perhaps find more collaboration opportunities by expanding their partnership in the health sector and beyond. Contrary to the U.S., the EU is determined to rely on WHO, and so is Russia.

In January, the EU defied U.S. pressure and did not ban Huawei from offering 5G services. It has also disagreed with U.S. policies on climate change. The EU needs to navigate between the U.S. and China in search of multilateralism and stability in world affairs. Believers in the European Dreams—sustainable development, quality of life, and the nurturing of community—envisage the EU mediating to foster China-U.S. dialogue. A new cold war will be a catastrophic development for the world. Europe still remembers the pain of decades of division.

To sum up, it's not the time to speculate about political gains. It's time to ponder what kind of world we want to live in. While public health remains the top priority, the relaunch of the economy is equally significant. China can again offer insights about its experience to interested parties as it is the country that suffered first. But more importantly, it has been able to continue contributing to global growth by rolling out the Belt and Road Initiative.

The Belt and Road Initiative will be a key source of international growth in a phase of calamity and unemployment. Its intersection with the EU-Asia Connectivity Strategy, which focuses on greater transport, energy, digital economy and people-to-people links, needs to be on the agenda of China-EU talks with concrete proposals in the next few months. This is an example of win-win cooperation, more so now than ever. ■

Copyedited by Sudeshna Sarkar
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The Blame Game

Trump administration politicizes pandemic for electoral gain By Jon Taylor

The author is professor of political science and chair of the Department of Political Science and Geography at the University of Texas, San Antonio

While in the midst of a pandemic and with a crying need for the U.S. and China to unite and work together, it is unfortunate that China-U.S. relations have deteriorated to a level not seen since the Cold War before Richard Nixon's historic visit to China in 1972. This deterioration was completely avoidable. One would have hoped that the rhetoric would dissipate as cooler and more rational voices prevailed to restore a greater sense of cooperation in the world's most important bilateral relationship.

Sadly, rather than pressing to collaborate and enhance a good working relationship with China, during the early part of this year there was a concerted effort on the part of some U.S. officials to play down and ignore evidence from China and the rest of Asia that the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) was a global threat. Then when the virus finally spread to the U.S., there was an effort to lay blame elsewhere and engage in unfounded speculation and Sinophobic scapegoating.

The real danger

The COVID-19 pandemic has been increasingly politicized, which poses a real danger not only to China-U.S. relations but to the world. Rather than seeking consensus, the pandemic is increasingly being used by some U.S. politicians as an excuse to confront China on a variety of political and economic issues that are wholly unrelated.

Unfortunately, a number of politicians from both the major U.S. political parties have continued to work hard in their competition to "one up" each other with the "tough on China" rhetoric—a stance that is, regrettably, seeing an increase in resonance among some Americans.

The most worrying aspect, arguably, is the trend among a group of U.S. politicians to fuel anti-Chinese sentiments by embracing the unsubstantiated and discredited theory that COVID-19 originated in a lab in Wuhan, the city in central China where the outbreak in China was first reported. With a U.S. presidential election looming on the horizon, there is little likelihood of a change in the approach.

Engendering mistrust through mendacity and vendettas is no way for the U.S. to conduct a cogent China policy. Renewed threats of tariffs and other retributions against China may play well among President Donald Trump's base, but emotional outbursts are an ineffective tool for advancing U.S. national interests.

Rather than following through on a pledge to work closely with China, the Trump administration has attempted to obstruct consensus within the Group of Seven and the Group of 20, suspended funds for the World Health Organization, and delayed international cooperation that could both contain and ultimately defeat COVID-19. Despite this hostility, scientists in both the U.S. and China are managing to work together, which I will take as a positive sign for the future.

In a more genteel time, the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic would not be seen as an opportunity to prove American exceptionalism or refute aspects of ideological systems. However, we are not in a genteel time within U.S. politics. Rather than seeing the pandemic as a moment for coordinating resources and ideas between China and the U.S., we are instead witnessing heightened Sinophobic rhetoric on behalf of Trump's reelection bid.

Trump's political advisers have created a narrative that it's all China's fault. By deflecting blame and criticism away from the U.S. and its slow response to the pandemic, this narrative has encouraged Trump and his supporters to take a much more aggressive approach toward China because they believe it will help them politically.

Disappointingly, some recent opinion polls bear this out. A recent Republican National Committee poll showed that 51 percent of voters in 17 swing states including Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin blamed China the most for the COVID-19 outbreak, while only 24 percent blamed Trump. Trump's reelection message thus becomes clear: Blame China because it's responsible for creating the COVID-19 pandemic, stealing millions of U.S. jobs and damaging the U.S. economy. It is an existential threat to the U.S.

The China card

Presenting a "strong" leadership vis-à-vis China has political benefits during a presidential election year. Trump and presumptive Democrat nominee Joe Biden are conveniently blaming each other over China in the name of partisan politics. Outdoing each other on China is bad

UCKY BRAND JEANS
LUCKY BRAND

for China-U.S. relations, can and has stoked anti-Chinese racism, and is mistakenly taking a Cold War-like path.

Following Trump's lead, campaign consultants for the Republicans in the Senate recently circulated a 57-page memo that instructed their candidates to attack China and to attack the Democrats for being "soft" on China. The memo bluntly stated that "China caused this pandemic by covering it up, lying, and hoarding the world's supply of medical equipment."

U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo has repeatedly and aggressively criticized China, blaming it for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people from the coronavirus, and intimating that it deliberately released the virus and intentionally concealed the severity of the virus.

For instance, in early May, he said though "we don't have certainty," "there is significant evidence" that the virus came from a laboratory in Wuhan.

During a recent Fox News virtual town hall, Trump suggested that China's leaders deliberately allowed global travel so China would not suffer alone from the virus. He also claimed that China's handling of the pandemic is proof that it "will do anything they can" to make him lose his reelection bid in November.

Consider the mental gymnastics that went into this claim. China's entire chain of command within both the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the government somehow decided that it would be a great idea to expose its own people to a deadly virus, hoping that it would somehow eventually make its way to the U.S. and infect enough of the U.S. population so that they would then not reelect Trump!

At what point does it finally become unreasonable to scapegoat China for the policy failures of the U.S., irrespective of how the virus originated? By January 24, almost entire Hubei, the province where Wuhan is located, had been quarantined. On January 25, the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee discussed the accelerating spread of the coronavirus and President Xi Jinping was publicly quoted as saying that it was a grave situation.

Ineffective response

Does this sound like a cover-up that caught the U.S. off-guard? No. Yet certain U.S. officials repeatedly claim that China refused to cooperate or give information. Complaining about China and punishing it does nothing to fix an ineffective U.S. response. The real tragedy is that the U.S. was either unable or unwilling to look at the extraordinary evidence—the Chinese national lockdown—and draw even the most obvious conclusion from this. The result was a deplorable lack of preparedness.

China is not the enemy of the U.S. The virus is the enemy. It would behoove the U.S., China-U.S. relations and the world if ego and nationalism were put aside in order to focus on the goal of defeating the novel coronavirus. Perhaps then the damage that has been done to China-U.S. relations would reverse course and begin to improve. ■

Copyedited by Sudeshna Sarkar
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FACE MASK
LOVE

XINHUA

Los Angeles Police Department officers pose for a photo after receiving medical supplies donated by the Chinese community in the U.S. city on March 26

LACOSTE
GUESS
GUESS
LACOSTE
GUESS

Stores in Broadway Street,
New York City, the U.S.,
remain closed on May 8

Pompeo Puts U.S. Credibility at Risk

How U.S. secretary of state spread lies

By Liu Yunyun

U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo is living up to his reputation as King of Disinformation during the global combat of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

On whether COVID-19 was manmade

Pompeo said to ABC News, "The best experts so far seem to think it was manmade and I have no reason to disbelieve that at this point."

He was then confronted by Mark Milley, U.S. Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, who said, "The weight of evidence is that it was natural and not manmade."

On whether the novel coronavirus came from a Wuhan lab

Pompeo said, "I can tell you that there is a significant amount of evidence that this came from that laboratory in Wuhan."

According to the German *Der Spiegel* magazine, Germany's BND spy agency had asked members of the U.S.-led Five Eyes intelligence alliance for evidence to support the accusation. None of the alliance's members, Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. included, supported Pompeo's claim.

Spiegel went on saying that an intelligence report prepared for German Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer concluded that the U.S. accusations were a deliberate attempt to divert public attention away from President Donald Trump's "own failures."

On U.S. generosity

Pompeo said on April 7 at a State Department news briefing, "I want everyone to be reminded that America remains the world's leading light of humanitarian goodness amidst this global pandemic." And he praised the U.S. as the most generous nation on the planet.

But he was contradicted by the U.S. allies including France and Germany. German DW News reported on April 7 that Berlin's city government had accused the U.S. of modern-day piracy after a shipment of 200,000 protective face masks was hijacked on its way from China to Germany.

Al Jazeera on April 4 reported that the heads of the three regions worst hit by the coronavirus in France had accused the U.S. of effectively hijacking millions of masks at a Shanghai airport. They were made in China and destined for France.

On sharing virus samples and genome sequencing

Pompeo has repeatedly accused China of "not sharing the virus sample with the outside world" and said China hindered the world's effort to develop a vaccine. The fact is that China shared the genome sequencing of the novel coronavirus with world scientists on January 10 and was recognized and appreciated by U.S. pharmaceuticals like Moderna Therapeutics and Inovio Pharmaceuticals for doing so. Stephen Hoge, President of Moderna, said in an interview with *Time* magazine on February 25 that "the first thing that [developing a vaccine] has to happen is somebody has to get their hands on the virus, sequence it and share that with the world, and the Chinese Government did that less than a month ago now."

"The fact that there isn't an actual replicating vial of virus is not a problem, as long as you have this sequence of what was in that tube," said Dr. Andy Pekosz of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, in an interview with CBS News on April 25.

On who has the authority on Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly (WHA)

On May 7, Pompeo urged World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to invite Taiwan to observe this month's WHA, "as he has the power to do and as his predecessors have done on multiple occasions." Again, the secretary of state was spreading lies in an attempt to confuse his audience.

On the same day at a WHO daily press briefing, WHO legal counsel Derek Walton responded, saying, "the involvement, if any, of observers from Taiwan, China, in that assembly is a question for the 194 members of WHO, the member governments; it's their decision." He continued to explain that "it's for the member states, rather than the Secretariat to decide that question." In a word, WHO director general has no power to do so.

It must be pointed out that China's Taiwan had indeed attended the WHA as an observer in the previous years in 2009-16. But it was under an arrangement of China, not the WHO Secretariat, that Taiwan participated as "Chinese Taipei." At that time, then Taiwan authorities promoted a sound relationship with the mainland which made such arrangements possible.

Pompeo alleged that China "behaved like authoritarian regimes do" and "attempted to conceal and hide and confuse." But laughably, he personally admitted at an event hosted by Texas A&M University in 2019, "I was the CIA director, we lied, we cheated, we stole, we had entire training courses." ■

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Comments to liuyunyun@bjreview.com

Something to Learn From

China's success in fighting COVID-19 should be an eye-opener for the West By William Jones

The author is the Washington bureau chief of *Executive Intelligence Review* news magazine

The world was taken aback by the novel coronavirus outbreak that was first reported in Wuhan, capital city of Hubei Province in central China with a population of over 11 million. The Chinese authorities were also initially unaware of what they were dealing with but the moment they realized they were dealing with a wholly new and highly contagious virus, which exhibited human-to-human transmission, they shut down the entire city, and soon after, the entire province as well.

If any other nation had attempted to do something similar, there would have been panic. But while this rigorous stay-at-home regime no doubt disrupted the lives of Wuhan residents, it did not lead to widespread complaints or people flaunting the restrictions. The whole nation fighting as one tactic worked. At a certain point, President Xi Jinping characterized it as a people's war, and the entire nation was involved in ensuring a victory.

The role of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was, of course, key in securing this victory. With the disciplined cadres of the CPC mobilized to meet the needs of the people, other elements of the population were also brought into play.

A collective and coordinated response was another characteristic of the national battle against the novel coronavirus. More than 40,000 medical workers were deployed from other parts of the country to Wuhan to help with treating the infected. Emergency hospitals were constructed in record time. A major system of testing was created to get a clear reading on the number of people infected and asymptomatic carriers. At the same time, a system was established for people to buy their goods in a way that was safe, and a delivery system was set up.

The expanse in recent years of new means of telecommunication, artificial intelligence and big data all came to help in the fight against the virus and served as a support to ensure that people were adhering to the restrictions and not falling off the wagon. The development of a highly modernized hospital and medical system, backed up by the medical resources of the People's Liberation Army, also helped China to cope with the virus in record time.

Foreign observers were astounded at the measures. Though some voices were highly critical, calling the measures "draconian" and complaining of the "high-handed" tactics of the Chinese Government, by the end of January, cases began to appear in Europe and then in the United States. The shoe was then on the other foot.

Some of the affected nations reacted wisely and began to follow the Chinese model. Many accepted the helping hand offered by China in the form of equipment and medical personnel. In Italy, in the long run, the Chinese model was basically implemented. In the United States, however, not willing to follow the "model" of a "rival" nation, measures were either too slow or entirely lacking, as witnessed by the tremendous number of deaths.

The people of China, on the other hand, reacted differently to the crisis. There was no loose talk in China, as there was in the West, about "herd immunity," or letting the virus spread to let enough people recover from it in order to "immunize" the population, and in the process sacrifice the elderly, who were most prone to die from it. Nor did you get demonstrations by people refusing to wear masks and demanding that the economy open up in spite of the risk it posed to the health of the masses.

There seemed to be a general understanding in China that the measures demanded by the government were ultimately for the benefit of the people. Trust was shown in the government and in the ruling CPC, in stark contrast with the distrust of government and politicians so prevalent in the West.

In this sense, we may have something to learn from the Chinese model of fighting threats like the coronavirus, and perhaps even something to learn from China in the art of good governance. ■

There was no loose talk in China, as there was in the West, about "herd immunity," or letting the virus spread to let enough people recover from it in order to "immunize" the population, and in the process sacrifice the elderly, who were most prone to die from it

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Facts vs. Fabrications

China's actions on COVID-19 hold up to scrutiny despite U.S. allegations

By Wang Zhuolun

By May 14, confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the United States had crossed 1.39 million, with the death toll surpassing 84,000.

However, instead of concentrating on fighting the pandemic domestically, some U.S. politicians have been fabricating allegations to pin the blame on China and hide their irresponsibility.

But the facts speak for themselves.

Origin of COVID-19

Did COVID-19 originate in Wuhan in Central China? Not necessarily. The place that first reports a virus may not be its place of origin. Increasing evidence proves that the Spanish flu did not originate in Spain.

The origin of COVID-19 has still not been identified. Source tracing is a serious scientific matter, which should be based on science and be done by scientists and medical experts. Calling the virus "Wuhan virus" or "China virus" is stigmatization.

On February 11, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially named the pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus COVID-19. It was done on the basis of its 2015 Best Practices for the Naming of New Human Infectious Diseases, which clearly stipulates that the naming of a disease should not be associated with a particular country or place.

There is also abundant evidence showing that cases occurred outside China earlier than deemed. *USA Today* reported on May 6 that 171 people in Florida showed symptoms of COVID-19 as early as in January, and none reported traveling to China.

Michael Melham, Mayor of Belleville in New Jersey, said he tested positive for coronavirus antibodies, and may have been sick with the virus back in November last year—over two months before the first reported case in the United States on January 20.

Mainstream Western media, including *The New York Times*, ABC and BBC, all have reported how the wrongful connection of Asian communities with COVID-19 stoked serious xenophobia and frequent discrimination and harassment of these communities in the United States.

WHO and scientists worldwide have fiercely rebutted the allegation made by some U.S. politicians that the virus was constructed and leaked by the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

WHO spokesperson Fadela Chaib stressed on April 21 that all available evidence suggested the virus has an animal origin and is "not manipulated or constructed in a lab or somewhere else." Chaib also said it most likely has its ecological reservoir in bats but how it was transmitted from bats to humans is still to be discovered.

British medical journal *The Lancet* said in a report published on February 19 that COVID-19 originated in wildlife, as have so many other emerging pathogens.

Anthony Fauci, Director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told *National Geographic* in an interview published on May 4, "If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats and what's out there now, [the scientific evidence] is very, very strongly leaning toward this could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated."

China's assistance to other countries is a return of their kindness in helping China with its COVID-19 response

The timeline

China has provided timely information on the virus in an open, transparent and responsible manner.

On December 27, 2019, three cases of pneumonia of unknown cause were immediately reported by Zhang Jixian, a doctor in Wuhan, after she received the patients. It was the first reporting of suspected cases of a new disease by the local authorities. On the same day, epidemiological investigation and tests on the patients were conducted by the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

The next few days witnessed two emergency notices and a situation report by the Wuhan authorities. On December 31, 2019, China informed the WHO China Country Office of the cases of pneumonia of unknown cause and from January 3, began sending regular, timely updates about the novel coronavirus to WHO and different countries, including the United States.

China completed the identification and sequencing of the virus as early as on January 7 and shared the genome sequence information with WHO and different countries on January 11.

Nine days later, the National Health Commission informed the media that the novel coronavirus could be transmitted from person to person. On January 22, WHO issued a warning about the potential risk of human-to-human transmission on its website, and eight days later, it declared the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern.

China's transparency in data releasing has been consistent. On April 17, Wuhan issued a notification revising up confirmed cases by 325 to a total of 50,333, and fatal cases by 1,290 to a total of 3,869.

Revision doesn't mean covering up. On the contrary, it was out of a high sense of responsibility to the people and to the lives lost to the coronavirus that Wuhan took the initiative. When the city was first hit by the virus, the hospitals were overloaded and some patients passed away at home. These deaths were missed, in addition to delayed, inadequate or inaccurate reporting of cases.

On April 28, Christoffer Koch and Ken Okamura, two economists from the United States and the United Kingdom, respectively, jointly published a paper based on studies of the data from China, Italy and the United States. They said the confirmed infections in China are similar to those in the other two countries and there was no possibility of manipulation of figures.

SINGLE-USE MEDICAL FACE MASK

XINHUA

Chinese and U.S. representatives at a handover ceremony for masks donated by the Chinese province of Fujian to Oregon, the United States, on April 27

Hollow export claims

The comprehensive and rigorous measures taken by the Chinese Government within the shortest possible time limited the number of infections to more than 700,000 fewer than expected in the absence of intervention measures and the chain of transmissions was broken domestically.

Wuhan was put under lockdown from January 23 to April 8. So it was impossible for Wuhan residents to travel overseas during this period.

Social distancing measures were strictly observed nationwide, effectively curbing the spread of the virus. Suspected cases and their close contacts were placed under quarantine at designated places to stem further spread of the virus.

China's response, demonstrating speed, scale and efficiency, have been rarely seen in the world, WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, adding that China's experience is worth learning for other countries.

This explains why China's infection rate stayed relatively low once the measures kicked in. As for the allegations that China spread the virus to the rest of the world, this is what research found outside China.

In the United States, *The New York Times* cited U.S. research as concluding that most New York coronavirus cases did not come from Asia.

In Canada, data from its major provinces showed that the virus was brought into the country by U.S. visitors.

In France, research found that the virus strain circulating locally was of unknown origin.

In Singapore, cases imported from China were less than one 10th of those from other countries.

In Japan, researchers believed that the strain confirmed in the country since early March was not from China.

In Russia, none of the imported cases was from China.

Manipulating WHO?

In the middle of the pandemic, the United States decided to halt funding WHO, saying it "failed to adequately obtain, vet and share information in a timely and transparent fashion." Some U.S. politicians alleged China was manipulating and bribing the organization.

This accusation is absurd. WHO is a specialized UN agency composed of 194 member states. Its 21-strong leadership team has 11 members from the United States, the EU, Canada and Australia and only one from China. They are all trained or practicing doctors, epidemiologists, rescue workers and public health experts.

Where WHO funding is concerned, assessed contributions from members account for less than a quarter of total funding, with the rest being voluntary contributions. China is the ninth biggest contributor. So can WHO be manipulated by one single country?

Help with a motive?

China has been doing its best to help the countries in need. As of mid-May, China had set up a 2-billion-yuan ($282 million) fund for COVID-19 cooperation. It has provided anti-epidemic supplies to more than 150 countries and international organizations and shared its experience on prevention, control, diagnosis and treatment with the rest of the international community. It has also sent 21 teams of medical experts to 19 countries.

Besides donating $50 million to WHO, China agreed to suspend principal and interest repayment for 77 developing countries' debts due between May 1 and the end of 2020, in response to the debt service suspension initiative for the poorest countries adopted at a meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors of Group of 20 countries in April.

China's assistance to other countries is a return of their kindness in helping China with its COVID-19 response. The support and assistance has been widely recognized by the international community. It is also a concrete step to put into action the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity despite some U.S. politicians distorting the efforts as serving "political and propaganda purposes." ■

This is an edited version of an article by Xinhua News Agency and the author is a writer with Xinhua
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Mindset Shift

The novel coronavirus epidemic has changed young people thinking By Ji Jing

When the novel coronavirus epidemic was at its peak in China, Dou Huining, a 30-year-old civil servant in Tianjin, a port city in north China, supervised epidemic control measures in local vegetable markets, kept vigil at the entrance of residential building blocks and picked up people returning from overseas at the airport to take them to designated hotels for quarantine. "I felt proud to contribute when we were in a period of emergency," she told *Beijing Review*.

Dou also said her love for the nation strengthened for the government put people's lives over everything else and spared no effort to save patients during the epidemic prevention and control work.

The epidemic, the biggest public health crisis since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, has one positive fallout. It has reshaped the values of young people in China, according to a survey conducted from March to April by a team under Lian Si, a sociologist at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

According to the survey results, 98.5 percent of the respondents said the fight against the epidemic has once again proved the wisdom of the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the advantages of socialism. Also, 98.3 percent said the epidemic control has made them realize that the CPC provides the core leadership in all kinds of causes in China. Asked what should be the foundation of a political party's governance, 70.2 percent said "putting people first and seeking benefits for the people" while only 10.3 percent answered "driving social and economic development."

In terms of satisfaction with the epidemic control measures, 93.7 percent said China's epidemic control measures have effectively ensured safety of people's lives and assets; 92.1 percent said in an emergency, they would be ready to follow government rules and management; and 91.7 percent said the epidemic has raised their recognition of the CPC's governing concept and effectiveness.

A student surnamed Lu in the English Department of Peking University told *Beijing Review* that the epidemic made her realize the advantage of China's political system. "After the novel coronavirus outbreak, the Party and the government swiftly rolled out a series of epidemic prevention and control measures such as putting Wuhan, the epicenter of the epidemic, on lockdown and building temporary hospitals in the city to accommodate the surging number of patients. These measures effectively curbed the spread of the epidemic and demonstrated the governing capability of the CPC."

Epidemic-fighting generation

Lian is known for coining the term "ant tribe" in an eponymous anthropological book published in 2009. It describes the life of China's young college graduates who were born in the 1980s and are usually from small towns or rural areas. They dreamed of a better life in big cities but struggled with low-paying jobs and poor living standards.

In April, Lian came up with a new term, "the epidemic-fighting generation," to describe the young people who took part in the fight against the epidemic. To learn more about this generation, Lian's team sent out 12,433 digital questionnaires to those born in the 1990s or 2000s and received answers from 11,736 people.

The respondents come from a wide range of professions and geographical areas. Those born in the 1990s accounted for 80.4 percent of the respondents, with the rest born in the 2000s. Of those surveyed, 29.3 percent have participated in epidemic control. In this group, 26.3 percent work in logistical sectors including as couriers and truck drivers; 18.4 percent are community workers, 15.6 percent community-level officials and 14.1 percent medical workers. The 70.7 percent who didn't participate in epidemic control on the frontline contributed in various other ways, including following government guidelines on epidemic prevention and control and performing other duties.

The survey studied the impact of the epidemic on young people's values in natural,

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Community workers and volunteers in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province in east China carry daily necessities for people under quarantine on March 2

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An administrative and law enforcement team made up of young people in a community in Haidian District, Beijing, keep vigil at the entrance of a building block on May 1

moral, social, political, national and international dimensions.

The relation between man and nature is the most basic social relation and the foundation for human survival. The survey revealed that 96.4 percent of the respondents stated that the epidemic has made them realize that they shouldn't eat wild animals. Also, 95.3 percent said the epidemic has taught them to have more respect for nature.

The epidemic has brought family members closer as they share more time under the same roof. In the past, families used to spend more time with each other, such as sitting together to watch TV. Later, the bond between family members weakened as everyone has a cellphone and is overwhelmed with information from diversified sources. Nevertheless, during the epidemic, as people were stuck at home, there were more interactions among different generations and people's value systems converged toward core socialist values.

A total of 90.1 percent respondents said during the epidemic, they empathized more with the older generation's way of thinking, 94.5 percent said during the epidemic they identified with traditional Chinese moral values more, and 91.3 percent said the epidemic has helped foster consensus in society.

Dedication to duty and camaraderie, as exemplified by the medical workers who were on the frontline, have inspired young people to understand the core socialist values. The survey found 91.4 percent of the respondents felt Chinese youth showed core socialist values in the epidemic and 90.5 percent said they would like to turn core socialist values into their moral standards and code of conduct. Some respondents said the epidemic made them realize that their anxieties are nothing in the face of death. The epidemic also opened their eyes to how different regions assisted one another and the sincerity between people.

The epidemic has influenced young people's view of role models as well. Asked to name the three groups that they admire most in epidemic prevention and control, 96.1 percent rooted for frontline medical workers, 90.5 percent said public health and medical experts and 85.2 percent chose police officers and community level officials.

Shouldering responsibilities

The epidemic has also changed young people's social values. In terms of social responsibility, 85.3 percent said the heroism of people fighting the epidemic inspired them to assume their social responsibilities; 84.6 percent said the epidemic made them realize they should spend their youth working where the Party and people need them most; and 80.3 percent said if needed, they would go to the frontline of epidemic control. For young people, social responsibility is no longer an abstract concept. They have gained a sense of accomplishment and honor from fulfilling their responsibilities.

Peking University's Lu said the epidemic has strengthened her sense of mission and responsibility. "Young people have played important roles in the fight against the epidemic. There are many post-90s like me in the medical teams sent by the Peking University-affiliated hospitals to Hubei," she said, referring to the province in central China where Wuhan is located. "They fought the epidemic on the frontline when the country needed them."

She herself did what was within her capacity to contribute to epidemic control. She compiled articles on COVID-19 and prevention measures with her classmates and published them online to inform the general public.

In terms of national values, the epidemic has enhanced young people's identification with the Chinese nation. A total of 94.8 percent respondents felt the fight against the epidemic demonstrated the unity of the Chinese nation and 98.7 percent felt proud of being part of the Chinese nation. The love for the motherland arising from the fight against the epidemic has become a valuable spiritual asset for young people to confront disasters.

Lu said she now has a better understanding of the unity of the Chinese nation. "When the outbreak occurred, medical teams from other parts of China went to Wuhan to fight the epidemic and supplies were sent to Hubei. The whole country united to overcome difficulties," she said.

In terms of international view, 97.4 percent agreed that the Chinese people have made tremendous contributions and sacrifices in the global fight against the pandemic; 95.5 percent felt China has demonstrated the morality and responsibility of a responsible country in the global fight against the epidemic; while 90.3 percent said China has demonstrated the spirit of internationalism and humanitarianism in sending medical supplies and medical teams to other countries. The survey also showed today's Chinese youth have a better understanding of the concept of a community with a shared future for humanity because of the epidemic.

According to 98.3 percent of the young people surveyed, the epidemic has taught them that countries around the world are a community with a shared future and should share weal and woe, while 97.6 percent felt that countries should work together to confront the epidemic rather than smear and attack one another. ■

Copyedited by Sudeshna Sarkar
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Scaling Development Cliffs

Victory in the anti-poverty battle of a cliff-top village gives hope for other impoverished places By Wang Hairong

White puffy clouds drift past a bungalow facing a deep valley and a towering peak beyond it. Chirps of birds animate the idyllic scene without shattering its serenity.

The bungalow with a wood-plank roof and mud walls is featured in a video clip that Mouse Labo posted online on April 13. It is in his hometown Atulie'er, a village perched on a steep 800-meter cliff in Zhaojue County, Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan Province, southwest China.

Labo, in his 20s, often records daily life in the small village with a few hundred residents and shares it on live-streaming platforms. In addition to a sea of clouds, the videos show villagers climbing a steel ladder, often with buckets or bags on their backs.

The spectacular staircase with 2,556 steps was built in 2016 with funding from the county and prefecture governments. It replaced a chain of 17 rattan vine-and-stick ladders draped over the precipice, used by villagers to get in and out of the village.

The steel ladder has brought Atulie'er great benefits. After it was put into use, tourists arrived and the villagers' life improved significantly. Now Labo works as a tourist guide.

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Residents of the Yi ethnic group in the cliff-top village of Atulie'er in Sichuan Province, southwest China, pose for a picture before moving to their new homes outside the mountain on May 12

Better life

The first residents of Atulie'er are believed to have settled on the cliff about 600 years ago. The rugged terrain sheltered them and their descendants from wars and bandits, while the fertile patches of land kept them fed.

However, the village's poor accessibility hindered its development and created other problems.

Access to medical care was difficult. Labo said he had five elder brothers and sisters, who all died of illness in infancy. "My sister-in-law had a difficult labor. We tried to carry her down the mountain to a hospital, but she stopped breathing on the way, leaving a baby that survived only for eight months," he told *People's Daily*.

The trip up the cliff using the vine ladders, tantamount to ascending a 30-story building, usually took an average villager one and half hours and the trip down one hour.

The climb was also highly risky. In 2016, then Secretary of the Communist Party of China Atulie'er Branch, Apijiti, told *Beijing Times* that about seven or eight people he knew had lost their lives during the trip. He said he himself nearly fell off the cliff during his first visit to the village. But at that time, the vine ladders were the only option for children in the village to go to a boarding primary school at the foot of the mountain.

The steel ladder has made the trip much safer. Media reports and live-streaming by villagers have also made the village famous, turning it into a tourist destination.

The village draws tourists from home and abroad. In 2019, nearly 100,000 tourists visited, generating about 1 million yuan ($141,000) in tourism revenue, reported Xinhua News Agency. Villagers have opened shops and inns, and sell products such as honey, green pepper and navel oranges to tourists. Liangshan Culture and Tourism Investment Group Co. Ltd. is planning to build a sightseeing cableway leading to the village, which is expected to boost tourism.

Villagers have also gained access to tap water and electricity. An early education center was set up in 2016, offering free enrollment for children aged between 3 and 5 years. A telecommunication tower built in 2017 brought Internet access. Now, the village has a clinic and residents can also consult doctors via the Internet and get

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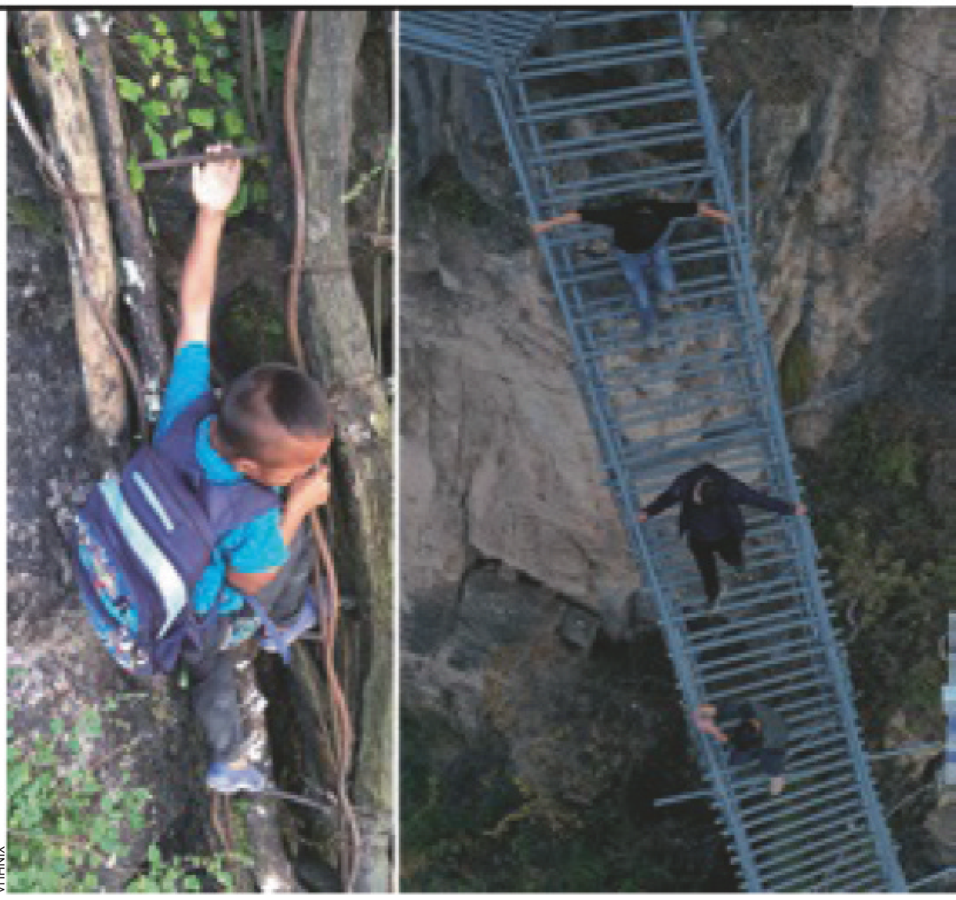
Mouse Labo talks with his brother-in-law on the phone on November 23, 2019



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(Left) A child in Atulie'er climbs down a vine ladder to go to school on September 30, 2016; tourists are on their way to Atulie'er using a steel staircase on November 24, 2019

medicine from a pharmacy down the mountain through a drone in minutes.

Due to its unique geographical condition, paving a road is too expensive and difficult. So the government built houses for villagers in places with better access.

Now, poor villagers in Atulie'er and neighboring villages have bid farewell to their mud-walled houses and moved into new buildings furnished with basic furniture in the vicinity of the Zhaojue County seat. On average, every person is entitled to 25 square meters of living space, and a household pays about 10,000 yuan ($1,410). Labo, his wife and two children got a 100-square-meter apartment. The head of Atulie'er, Pachayouge, said the elderly and children will live in their new homes, while young and middle-aged villagers will stay in the village to develop tourism.

Continuing efforts

In Liangshan, there are many villages like Atulie'er located in deep mountains. More than 70 percent of the prefecture is mountainous. Poor transportation has hindered economic development, making the region one of the poorest in China.

However, unfavorable geographical condition is only one of the causes for its backwardness.

Hou Yuangao, a researcher with the Minzu University of China in Beijing and a Liangshan native, believes underdeveloped education is chiefly blamable for poverty and other problems in Liangshan. He thinks the most important thing for local people is to get out of isolation and improve their level of education.

According to a report by state broadcaster China Central Television in 2018, in Zhaojue, the average education was 4.4 years, and the nine-year compulsory education had not been realized until around 2007. Many villagers of the Yi ethnic group cannot speak standard Chinese and have difficulty in communicating with non-locals because of the language barrier.

Various levels of governments have increased investment in education. Since 2016, 15-year free education has been offered in ethnic minority regions in Sichuan, including Liangshan, covering the period from kindergarten to high school.

According to local newspaper *Liangshan Daily*, in 2019, the enrollment rate in primary schools in the prefecture was 99.35 percent, and 94.51 percent in junior high schools.

In recent years, as the government worked on targeted poverty relief with unprecedented determination, the development seen in Atulie'er is also being replicated in other villages in Liangshan.

Measures have been taken to develop specialty industries, improve education and medical services, construct infrastructure and if necessary, relocate residents to places with better natural conditions.

The priority is building roads. At the end of 2019, Abuluoha Village in Butuo County, believed to be the last village without a road in Liangshan, was connected to a paved road. Located in the deep valley of the Jinsha River, the village is surrounded by mountains on three sides and cliffs on the fourth. In the past, villagers had to walk more than three hours to another village where they could take a paved road to travel to the county seat and other places.

Thanks to these efforts, four counties in Liangshan have shed poverty, according to an announcement by the Sichuan Provincial Government on February 18.

Liangshan still has seven poor counties including Zhaojue. Nationwide, there are 52 counties left in poverty.

As China is going to eliminate absolute poverty this year, the prefecture is also intensifying efforts.

"Developing specialty industries is key to ensuring stable income for the impoverished people in Liangshan," said Zhang Qi, Director of the China Institute for Poverty Reduction at Beijing Normal University. He said Liangshan can develop modern planting, forestry, fruit and tourism industries with regional characteristics, and focus on branding and marketing organic agricultural products.

Gong Ping, head of the Liangshan Transportation Bureau, said Liangshan plans to build 16 expressways, and all its counties are expected to be connected by highways within five to 10 years. Currently, there is only one expressway in the prefecture, which is shut down for about 100 days a year because of ice and snow or geological disasters, which hinders delivery of agricultural products and also local people's pursuit for prosperity. "After the highway network is built, it will help specialty products to get out of Liangshan, Sichuan and even the country," he said. ■

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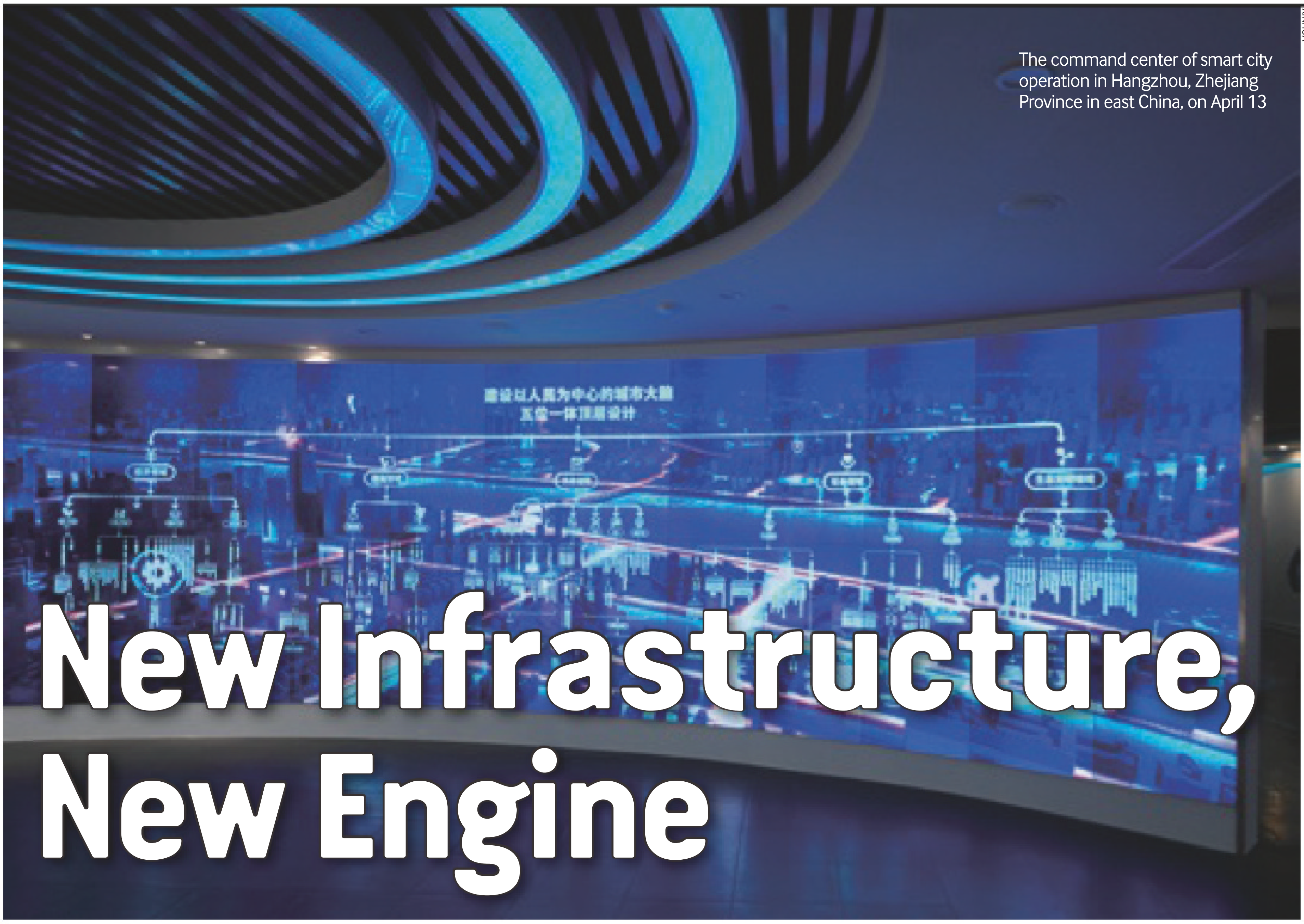
New Infrastructure, New Engine



The command center of smart city operation in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province in east China, on April 13

XINHUA

Shanghai unveils three-year construction plan for new infrastructure By Wang Jun

Shanghai will carry out 48 key projects in the field of new infrastructure in the next three years with a total investment of 270 billion yuan ($38.14 billion), according to the action plan on promoting new infrastructure construction (2020-22) issued by the Shanghai Municipal Government. The 35-point plan aims at turning Shanghai into a leading city in the world in terms of scale and innovation capacity of new infrastructure by the end of 2022.

"Accelerating new infrastructure construction is not only beneficial for expanding effective investment, but also a very important method to empower new economy," said Ma Chunlei, head of the Shanghai Municipal Development and Reform Commission, at a press conference held by the Shanghai Municipal Government Information Office on May 7.

The concept of new infrastructure was first put forward during the Central Economic Work Conference held in December 2018, which identified 5G networks, artificial intelligence (AI), industrial Internet and the Internet of Things as new infrastructure.

On March 4, 2020, a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China decided to accelerate construction of new infrastructure, and broadened its scope to cover 5G networks, industrial Internet, data centers, AI, ultrahigh voltage, inter-city transit system as well as new-energy vehicles and charging stations.

"New infrastructure is an important area of effective investment. Construction of 5G networks and big data will serve as the foundation for information technology development, and the construction of new infrastructure, especially digital infrastructure, will bring the development of manufacturing and service industries," Liu Zhe, Vice President of the think tank WANB Institute, said in an interview with *Caijing* magazine.

"In the short term, it is difficult for new infrastructure construction to make up for the 'hard gaps' created by the novel coronavirus in the Chinese economy, but it will play an active role in ensuring stable employment and reviving the market," he said.

Four major areas

The Shanghai action plan names four major areas of new infrastructure construction: new generation of networks, new innovation infrastructure, new integrated platforms based on AI and new smart terminals.

"Shanghai, with its strong comprehensive competitiveness, is in a leading position in terms of network infrastructure, data centers, computing platform scale and major science and technology infrastructure in China. It is also the first provincial-level government in the country that has issued new infrastructure plans," Wang Gaoxiang, General Manager of the Urban Economy Research Center with CCID Consulting Co. Ltd., told *Caijing*.

He said new infrastructure construction is the best way to stimulate demand in the short term and increase supply in the long

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A staff member introduces applications of artificial intelligence plus new retail in a hi-tech company in Minhang District, Shanghai, on April 28

run; it is also an essential means to expand new consumption, new manufacturing and new services. Relying on new infrastructure, Shanghai is laying digital foundations for an international megacity, which will be a role model for other cities in their construction of new infrastructure.

Zhang Jianming, Deputy Director of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informationization, said at the May 7 press conference that the commission has identified over 70 key projects as well as nearly 20 reserve projects in the fields of new networks and new platforms for the next three years. They involve a total investment of 200 billion yuan ($28.25 billion), of which 50 billion yuan ($7.06 billion) will be realized within this year.

According to Zhang, 5G technology will be a key digital infrastructure supporting the digital, network-based and intelligent transformation of the economy. By the end of the first quarter of 2020, Shanghai had built over 18,000 5G outdoor base stations and small indoor stations. The city plans to invest 10 billion yuan ($1.41 billion) in 5G development this year to build another 12,000 outdoor base stations and 32,000 small indoor stations to realize full 5G coverage in the city center and suburban towns.

Besides 5G, data centers have a special place in the construction of new infrastructure and are regarded as the cornerstone of data, computing and networks. Shanghai is a leader in China in terms of the scale of data centers. There are more than 120,000 data centers in Shanghai, and by the first quarter of next year, the city will build another 60,000 data centers with a total investment of 12 billion yuan ($1.69 billion), which will stimulate 38 billion yuan ($5.37 billion) of investment in other fields.

In the future, Shanghai will look for ways to intensify the construction of and investment in data centers and build data centers with higher flexibility and computing capability, said Zhang.

Sources of funding

Compared with traditional infrastructure such as railways, highways, airports and water conservancy facilities, new infrastructure is attracting investment from diverse sources.

"Compared with traditional infrastructure, a major difference in new infrastructure is that private capital is the main source of funding," Ma said, adding that in the 270 billion yuan of investment in the 48 new infrastructure projects in the next three years, government investment will account for only 60 billion yuan ($8.47 billion), while the remaining 210 billion yuan ($29.66 billion) will come from private investors.

Private investment can also play an important role in mitigating the effects of the novel coronavirus.

"Market players should act as the major force and what the government should do is to guide the investment, with policies being the foundation and key," Ma said.

According to Shanghai's action plan, to accelerate the construction of new infrastructure, the city will support policy banks, development financial institutions and commercial banks to establish a 100-billion-yuan ($14.12 billion) special credit fund to enable private investors to get low-cost, long-term financing, thus encouraging more private investors to participate in new infrastructure construction.

An executive meeting of the State Council on April 28 called for innovating the modes of investment, giving priority to market-based investment and supporting the participation of diverse types of investors. Financial institutions are encouraged to innovate their products and improve services, and the government should better facilitate investment.

More reforms needed

Since most of the sectors in new infrastructure are emerging hi-tech industries, supporting institutional reforms are needed to accelerate the construction of new infrastructure.

Ren Zeping, chief economist of the Evergrande Think Tank, said in a research report that different from traditional infrastructure, new infrastructure requires support from fiscal, financial and industrial systems.

Regarding fiscal policies, the policy of additional tax deductions for research and development must be readjusted and tax rates for hi-tech businesses should be lowered. In terms of monetary and financial policies, the government should provide support in credit, mergers and acquisitions, initial public offerings and bond issuance. As for industrial policies, new infrastructure should be incorporated into national strategies and local economic and social development plans.

Ren also suggested furthering relaxing market access to new infrastructure and opening projects with high earnings to private investors.

To address the problems in the construction of new infrastructure, Shanghai will optimize the industrial layout and improve regulations and standards to attract private investors, Ma said. ■

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Proactive Opening Up

New regulations further facilitate foreign investors' participation in China's capital market

By Zhang Shasha

The People's Bank of China (PBC), China's central bank, and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) issued new rules on May 7 to scrap quotas on the dollar-denominated qualified foreign institutional investor (QFII) scheme and its yuan-denominated sibling RQFII, and further streamline procedures in order to facilitate their participation in China's financial market and boost the long-term development of the domestic capital market. The new regulations will take effect on June 6.

"It's a positive signal put forth by China to its unswerving effort to open up its financial market, which is a proactive opening up devoid of any external pressure, and serves as an ideal opportunity for foreign investors to enter the Chinese market," Zong Liang, chief economist of the Bank of China (BOC), told *Beijing Review*.

The novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has caused global market fluctuations including uncertainties in the price of crude oil and various currencies, which have increased risks for global investors. "China's move at this time is of special significance," Zong said, adding that it showed a positive outlook for the market.

Moreover, while the global policy and market rates remain low at this stage, with some economies lowering their rates to zero or less, it is a good opportunity to invest in the Chinese market, which registered a relatively higher rate of return, he said.

A step forward

The new regulations highlighted the removal of restrictions on the investment quota of QFII and RQFII. The two major inbound investment schemes, introduced in 2002 and 2011 respectively, were seen as the most significant policies during China's opening up of its domestic capital market. According to SAFE, as of April 30, the total investment of 295 QFIIs was $114.7 billion, while that of

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The British Petroleum logo is seen at a gas station in the British town of Windsor on April 21

227 RQFIIs was $713.1 billion. The QFII quota has been expanded from $4 billion to $300 billion since its inception.

"With the removal of investment caps, the Chinese capital market will provide bigger and wider room for attracting international capital, which is of great importance for overseas capital to enter the domestic market," Dong Dengxin, Director of the Finance and Securities Institute, Wuhan University of Science and Technology, told *National Business Daily*. "While the U.S. stock market has plummeted this year, China's A-share market has, to some extent, played a role in maintaining global market confidence and has absorbed a considerable amount of international capital that has fled the U.S. market."

International investors have demonstrated their interest in China's capital market since the inclusion of Chinese stocks and bonds in many major global indices such as MSCI, FTSE Russell, S&P Dow Jones and the Bloomberg Barclays Indices.

Zong also emphasized that the integrated management of the Chinese currency and foreign currencies in the new regulations facilitates foreign investors' participation in the Chinese capital market. In addition, the new rules will provide more convenience for foreign investors to remit their funds after earning money from the Chinese market, which is conducive to dispel their concerns, he said.

While the Chinese economy has been gradually returning to normalcy, the capital market is at a relatively low point due to the impact of the pandemic, Zong said, which is an opportunity for investors to maximize their benefits and enjoy the fruits of China's continued development. Moreover, he stressed that the country is committed to building a healthy capital market, taking into account investors' rights and benefits, which will minimize their investment risks.

Wang Youxin, a researcher with the BOC Research Institute, told *Securities Daily* that the new regulations will clear the institutional barriers for overseas capital and improve foreign investors' convenience for holding renminbi assets, thus generating more enthusiasm.

In the short run, it is a shot in the arm for the market, while in the long run, renminbi assets will become an investment focus for global capital with the increase of overseas capital, Wang said.

A dynamic market

In recent years, as China's financial market has opened its door wider, foreign capital has continued to pour into the A-share market. The total value of foreign investors' assets position in the A-share market was 1.6 trillion yuan ($225.7 billion).

Foreign shareholdings account for a large part of some corporate assets. For instance, as of April 30, those who had invested through QFII, RQFII and the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect in the Midea Group, a Chinese electrical appliance manufacturer, made up 26.74 percent of the total.

However, foreign shareholdings accounted for only 3.3 percent of the A-share market in the first quarter of 2020, which fell behind countries such as Japan and the Republic of Korea, whose foreign investment accounted for 15-30 percent of their total, according to the research institute of Guosheng Securities. This indicates that there is a lot of room for foreign investment in the future, Zong said.

As new regulations keep rolling out to facilitate foreign investors' participation, the Chinese capital market will see continuous improvement. PBC Governor Yi Gang said in a recent article that China needs to accelerate financial opening up since it can encourage direct financing through bond and stock markets, while reducing reliance on bond lending. It can also help optimize the capital market structure and spur efforts to improve financing efficiency and curb the debt burden.

Li Jianjun, chief researcher with Zhong Shang Zhi Ku, a Chinese think tank, said that it is a critical stage to vigorously develop the capital market and expand corporate financing channels. Financial opening up will give international investors access to participate in building the Chinese capital market, which is conducive to enhancing value investment and promoting rules and system building of the capital market.

He added that the new regulations will further expand the financial market, optimize the capital market investor structure and enhance China's financial services capacity. It will promote the adjustment of the financing structure and guide capital to industries with better prospects and operational capacity so as to enhance the capital market's support of science and entrepreneurial businesses, exerting the resource allocation capacity of the capital market. ■

Copyedited by Rebeca Toledo
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Key Points of Regulations On QFII and RQFII

1 Restrictions on investment quota of QFII and RQFII are removed. Qualified investors will no longer need to apply for any investment quota from SAFE. Instead, they shall entrust their main custodians to make a registration with SAFE.

2 Qualified investors may choose currencies and the timing of inward remittance on their own.

3 The procedures for qualified investors' repatriation of securities investment income are significantly simplified, replacing special audit report on investment returns issued by a Chinese certified public accountant and tax clearance or tax filing certificates with tax commitment letters signed by qualified investors.

4 The limits on the number of custodians are scrapped. A single qualified investor may choose multiple domestic custodians, and appoint one as the main custodian.

5 Foreign exchange risk and investment risk management mechanism for qualified investors' domestic securities investment is improved.

6 The PBC and SAFE will strengthen on-going and ex-post supervision.

(Source: *PBC; designed by Pamela Tobey*)

China's CPI Growth Eases, PPI Fall Deepens

XINHUA

A man buys lunch in a shopping mall in Shanghai on May 12

China's consumer inflation eased further in April on falling food prices as the country fast-tracked restoration of economic activities, while factory-gate prices continued to be bogged down by epidemic-dented demand, official data showed on May 12.

The consumer price index (CPI), the main gauge of inflation, grew 3.3 percent year on year last month, moderating from the 4.3-percent gain in March, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

On a monthly basis, consumer prices went down 0.9 percent. Food prices, which account for nearly one third of weighting in the CPI, dropped 3 percent last month.

Vegetable prices fell 8 percent from March over rising supply due to warmer weather, and pork prices continued to retreat amid recovering hog production. Prices of the staple meat in China dropped 7.6 percent in April from a month earlier.

Compared with the same period last year, food prices remained the main driver of consumer inflation in April, while their growth rate tapered from March to 14.8 percent.

Excluding food and energy, the core CPI rose 1.1 percent over last year, down from 1.2 percent in March, according to Dong Lijuan, a senior statistician with the NBS.

Zhao Xijun, a finance professor with the Renmin University of China, said the recovery of market supply under the stepped-up resumption of production and business activities helped moderate consumer inflation.

Smooth logistics, as well as reduced transportation costs due to falling oil prices will also help keep prices down, Zhao said.

In the first four months of this year, CPI went up 4.5 percent year on year on average.

Data on May 12 also showed the producer price index (PPI), which measures inflation at the factory gate, fell 3.1 percent year on year last month.

The reading deepened from the 1.5-percent drop in March, with price declines widening in major industries.

Aside from the epidemic's negative impact on demand, the rout in the global oil market and retreating commodities prices, which delivered big shocks to the industrial chain, were other key drivers for the price deflation.

Prices of oil and natural gas extraction saw the biggest drop last month, plunging 51.4 percent year on year, while those in the oil, coal and other fuel processing industries went down 19.8 percent.

Wen Bin, chief analyst at China Minsheng Bank, said in a co-authored research note that the CPI will continue to retreat in the coming months, allowing policymakers more leeway to stimulate the real economy as the focus should be tilted toward growth and employment.

Meanwhile, further efforts should be made to spur recovery on the demand side and boost business confidence as producer prices hinge on both domestic and external factors, he said.

The central bank said in its first-quarter monetary policy report that despite short-term price disruptions caused by the novel coronavirus epidemic, there was no foundation for persistent inflation or deflation.

It vowed to step up counter-cyclical adjustments to support the real economy, make the prudent monetary policy more flexible and appropriate, and continue to deepen reforms of the market-oriented interest rate and the yuan exchange rate formation system. ■

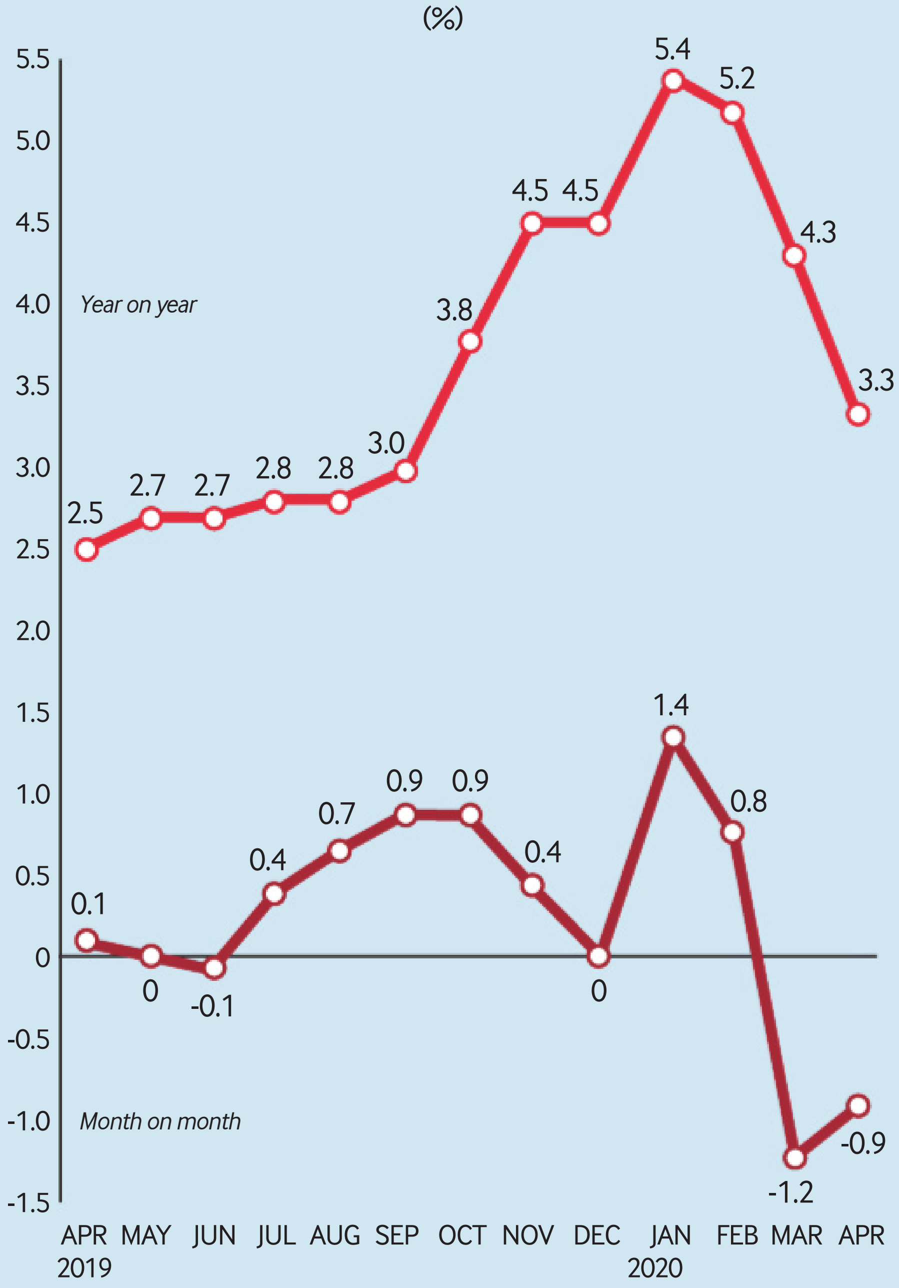
This is an edited excerpt of an article by Xinhua News Agency
Copyedited by Madhusudan Chaubey
Comments to dengyaqing@bjreview.com

NUMBERS

($1=7 yuan)

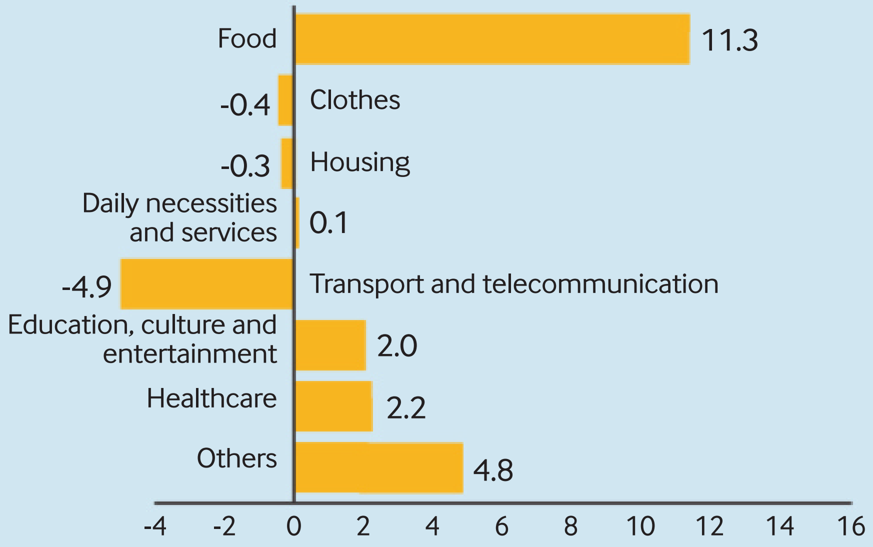
China's Consumer Price Index (CPI) Growth

(%)



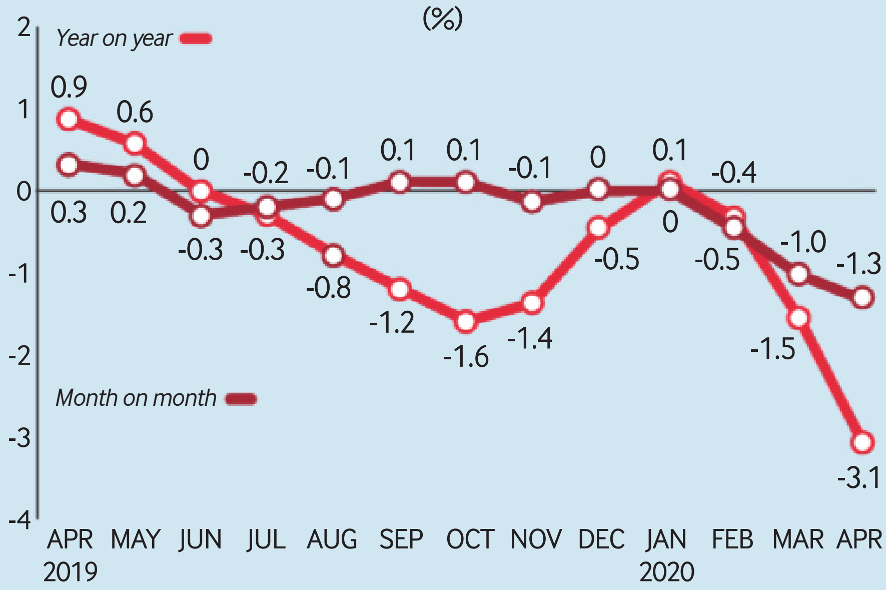
China's CPI Growth by Type

April (% y.o.y.)



China's Producer Price Index Growth

(%)



(Source: *National Bureau of Statistics*)

China's gross ocean product rose 6.2 percent year on year to top **8.9 trillion yuan** in 2019, doubling over the amount a decade ago. The gross ocean product has accounted for around 9 percent of gross domestic product for nearly 20 years.

China's local governments have issued **1.9 trillion yuan** worth of bonds in the first four months of this year at an average interest rate lower than last year. The bonds were issued at an average interest rate of 3.31 percent, down 16 basis points from last year, with an average issuance term of 15.5 years, 5.2 years longer than in 2019.

The city of Yiwu in Zhejiang Province in east China, home to the world's biggest small commodities market, handled **1.47 million** consignments of cross-border parcels in April, up 867.2 percent year on year. The China-Europe freight train service, launched in Yiwu in 2014, has become a new channel for international transportation of goods amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

(Source: *Xinhua News Agency*)

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CHINA MOSAIC

Weekly video commentary direct from Beijing

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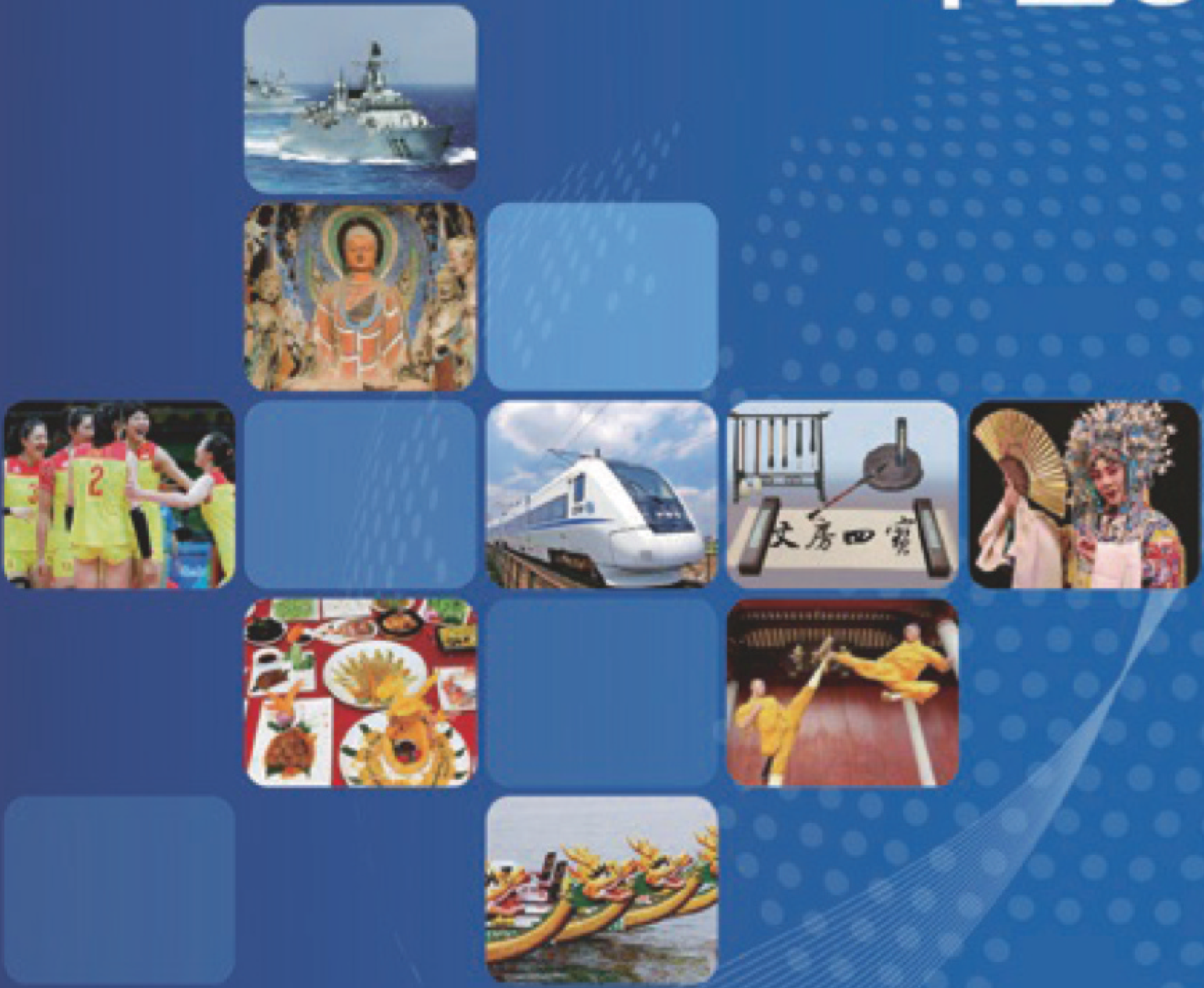

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Invisible Influencers

Language experts' role in the frontline of the battle against COVID-19

By Li Fangfang

When Ji Jin flew into Italy in March, it was the height of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) epidemic there and her work meant direct exposure to high risk. She was an interpreter for the Chinese medical team that had been sent to work with Italian doctors on COVID-19 prevention and control.

For Ji, there was something personal about the assignment. She is from Mianzhu, a city in Sichuan Province in southwest China, and in her diary, she wrote her other reason. In 2008, when a massive earthquake hit Sichuan, Italy built an emergency hospital in her hometown to provide assistance. "So this time, I am grateful that I have the opportunity to repay the kindness and contribute to the fight against the epidemic in Italy by using my translation and interpreting (T&I) skills to the best of my ability," she wrote.

This story was shared by Gao Anming, Chair of the Asia-Pacific Translation and Interpreting Forum, during the Asia-Pacific Translation and Interpreting Webinar on Combating COVID-19 on May 11, when language experts from 10 countries and regions as diverse as Britain, Australia and Iraq shared their stories and suggestions.

"Regardless of the risk of infection, many interpreters are working on the frontline, most notably in hospitals and airports, to facilitate communication," Gao, who is also vice president of the China International Publishing Group, said in his opening speech.

At this time of crisis when millions of people worldwide have been infected by the novel coronavirus, the Asia-Pacific T&I community is offering timely help, Gao said. "The T&I community has been acting as a link in anti-epidemic information exchanges," he said.

Unsung heroes

On January 25, Chinese New Year's Day, Xu Qiang, an associate professor at the Graduate School of Translation and Interpreting at the Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), received a phone call from the China office of the World Health Organization (WHO). It was a request for help to get a collection of medical reports on COVID-19 cases quickly translated from Chinese into English.

Xu immediately organized a team of translators who pored over the documents for eight continuous hours to finish the translations by the next day.

"Their work was used as important data for WHO to evaluate the outbreak," Ren Wen, Dean of the Graduate School of Translation and Interpreting at the BFSU, explained.

Ren also pointed out that T&I teachers and students from Chinese universities have been assisting in international experts' exchanges and information sharing for epidemic prevention and control. They have been working together to dispel bias and xenophobia and promote cross-cultural communication.

"Language service professionals and volunteers are unsung heroes who also need to be acknowledged in the fight against COVID-19," she said.

Alison Rodriguez, Vice President of the International Federation of Translators, echoed her, saying, "This global pandemic has shown how much the translation sector can adapt to deliver much-needed services when called to action, and its resilience and sense of duty when that call arrives."

Cultural barriers

Due to cultural differences, people have been seen as holding different views on the emergency measures rolled out by the authorities to control the pandemic. When COVID-19 started to spread in the United States, there was a heated debate on whether people should wear masks. There were even reports of people of Asian descent being attacked when they ventured out wearing masks. However, the masks proved to be effective in preventing the virus from spreading.

"We don't just translate languages, but also translate cultures. We try to bridge the gap between people," Hong Kong Translation Society President Elsie Chan remarked.

Kevin Quirk, President of the International

COURTESY PHOTO

Ji Jin (second left) interprets for a Chinese medical worker communicating with his Italian counterparts in Italy in March

抗击疫情亚太翻译云论坛
ASIA-PACIFIC TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING WEBINAR ON COMBATING COVID-19

Translation experts take part in the Asia-Pacific Translation and Interpreting Webinar on Combating COVID-19 from different regions on May 11

COURTESY PHOTO

Federation of Translators who attended the webinar from Norway, echoed her. "We do need to counter the virus by coming together and pooling our resources," he said. "I believe it is incumbent upon us to make our voices heard. Our job as translators and interpreters is to bridge the language gap and to promote mutual understanding."

The translation industry can address common problems and share knowledge and the best practices to help the global community resolve common challenges that extend beyond national borders, Rodriguez added. Language professionals are working hard to keep the borders open, reconnect humanity and ensure that ideas, information and communication keep flowing.

"At this very essential time, interpreting remotely, through a digital medium, for example, can make our job more difficult. But it has never been more important because global problems require global approaches with professional translators, interpreters and terminologists ensuring that information passes through the language barriers as well as the borders," she said.

Overcoming fallouts

Several participants voiced their concerns about the difficulties of the T&I industry due to the pandemic such as a plummeting workload.

According to Slator, a leading provider of news and research on the translation industry, a significant number of conferences using interpreters and translation projects have been postponed or canceled. Language service providers in China and Italy have been the most affected.

However, government translators fared better than those in other sectors since, according to Chan, the health-related area was an exception that saw a huge increase in the demand for translation and interpretation.

"Paradoxically, while the outbreak has dealt a terrible blow to the language service industry as a whole, the parameter itself has also demonstrated the urgent need for emergency language services, as well as the importance of T&I in our joint efforts to cope with the crisis," Ren said.

This was where technology, especially advanced information communication technology, had a key role to play. According to a report by *China Daily*, a survey jointly conducted by Beijing Language and Culture University and Hebei Normal University for Nationalities found that over 90 percent of language service companies in China had resumed operation by working remotely through the Internet or by using cloud-based computer-aided translation platforms.

Rodriguez stressed the need to harness technology while remembering that compared with artificial intelligence (AI) or machine translation, human translators and interpreters have their unique advantages. "Now, more than ever, we need to pivot with the assistance of technology to enhance the skills of our people," she said. "The pandemic has given us a chance to pause and remember the importance of the people, the people, the people, first and foremost."

Quirk emphasized the need for sharing resources worldwide. "What we are not always good at is working together with other associations at a regional or even global level to focus on key areas where we face similar challenges," he said. "I think there is no better opportunity for us to stand together than the situation we are facing now."

The experts sensed that crises could become the new normal in the post-pandemic world. To cope with that, Ren's suggestion for universities specifically was to draw up a plan for emergency language services based on their experiences and the lessons that they have accumulated during this period.

"Since mammoth disasters may become the new normal for the whole world, AI programs should be included in the curriculum," she said, "as well as ethical guidelines for dealing with calamities and epidemics." ■

Copyedited by Sudeshna Sarkar
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Can Pre-Booked Visits to Tourist Sites Become the New Normal?

During the recent May Day holiday, China saw a strong rebound in the tourism sector, with 115 million domestic tourists flocking to attractions nationwide. Promoted as a part of measures to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), reservations were required for prospective visitors by more than 80 percent of the country's major scenic sites, via official websites, social media apps like WeChat or third-party platforms. Daily caps on the number of visitors were imposed at these sites, particularly in cities rich in historical and cultural attractions such as Beijing and Xi'an in the northwestern province of Shaanxi.

After the COVID-19 outbreak was brought under control, tourist destinations across China have reopened in phases since February. In mid-April, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the National Health Commission jointly issued a document demanding that scenic spots improve their online booking systems. Sites are also required not to let the number of visitors exceed 30 percent of capacity at any time.

In addition, the document said scenic spots should make arrangements to ensure tourist arrivals are staggered. Online booking has thus become a mechanism for scenic spots to regulate tourist flow during the pandemic and enhance the experience of visitors.

For many years, Chinese tourists have had difficulty booking hotels, finding parking spots and locating food when visiting domestic scenic spots during holidays, as millions of people flock to these sites en masse. Online booking can help avoid overcrowding by highlighting peak periods, enhancing people's experience while traveling. The scenic spots themselves will also be spared the pressures that come with the huge flow of tourists.

Yet questions remain as to whether this measure is sustainable after the pandemic. Some believe it will work only while a majority of people choose not to travel for fear of the coronavirus. They argue that the vast majority of the working population have only two or three holidays per year, long enough for family group visits to well-known scenic spots far from their home communities. Others will likely be there too. If domestic tourism returns to pre-pandemic levels, a daily quota for admission risks excluding a large number of potential visitors.

Despite the skeptics, plenty of people said they will embrace the change because they want a better travel experience.

Beneficial reform

Huang Shuai (*China Youth Daily*): A recent video clip has gone viral online. It shows numerous tourists on the mountain paths of Taishan in Shandong Province, east China, to appreciate the sunrise. The comments show people's concern about the risks at play. Some, dangerously close to the edge, might fall, or a human crush might result from sudden movement. More importantly, such crowds are a fertile breeding ground for the spread of the coronavirus.

To guard against a possible rebound of the outbreak, an online booking system is urgently required. A vast majority of tourists support this measure. Life is more important than traveling. The question is whether such a system can become part of the new post-pandemic normal.

Some scenic spots, principally historical and cultural sites, have already adopted a booking system. The Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, Gansu Province in the northwest, is one of them, where centuries-old frescos and fragile cultural heritage demand a limit on daily visitors.

Yet many do not fall into this category. For them there is a conflict of interest between profit and tourist experience when it comes to reservations and restrictions on visitors. If booking is competitive and scenic spots are required to shorten their opening hours, this will deter tourists, which will negatively affect earnings. Yet if there are no restrictions at all, facilities in the scenic sites are likely to be damaged by crowds of tourists.

Online booking is still in its early stages. Obstacles will appear in the process of implementation, and so supportive measures should be launched to improve related services. This way more people will accept the reform, and both tourists and scenic spots can benefit from it.

Dear Readers,

Forum is a column that provides a space for varying perspectives on contemporary Chinese society. We invite you to submit personal viewpoints on past and current topics (in either English or Chinese).

✉ dingying@bjreview.com

Please provide your name and address along with your comments

Liao Weifang (n.eastday.com): Reservations for tourist sites should become a conventional practice rather than just a temporary measure during the pandemic. It can help tourists visit scenic spots at different times throughout a holiday period, preventing overcrowding and facilities becoming strained.

In the past, high tourist arrivals at famous scenic spots meant that some people traveled a long way only to find that they couldn't get in. With an online booking system, tourists will be able to check admission availability at the point of planning a trip. This will also make it easier for sites to improve their management and services.

We are already used to making reservations, be it for restaurant tables, hairdressers or medical consultations. While enhancing the tourist experience, reservations will also help to diminish the possibility of contracting infectious diseases. Hopefully reservations for visiting scenic spots will become the new normal, just as those for other services have taken hold in people's daily lives.

Change in mindset needed

Mu Xuchong (*Yangcheng Evening News*): People usually go directly to scenic spots without knowing whether those places can accommodate any more visitors. When they find that these spots are overcrowded, they are disappointed and often regret having come. However, if they can find out ahead of time how many visitors will be there during specific time slots through an online booking system, their experience will be totally different.

In essence, the booking system aims to make services in scenic spots transparent to potential visitors. It is an effective way to control the flow of tourists and it can reduce management costs, dispensing the need for ticket booths and alleviating safety concerns caused by larger numbers of visitors.

For many scenic spots, their decision on how many visitors to admit is based on a calculation of their earnings. More tourists mean more profits. During peak times, scenic spots tend to be filled with tourists. In theory regulations are supposed to limit the flow of people. Yet in reality, sites often continue to sell tickets both from onsite offices and online, meaning that during holidays these places are often overwhelmed.

For tourists, making reservations prior to departure is an easy adaptation, but for the sites, the issue could impact their economic benefits. Amid the pandemic, strict restrictions on the flow of tourists have been imposed on scenic spots, a tradeoff between people's desire for traveling and the need to prevent a resurgence of the coronavirus.

To make the online booking system a long-term practice, it is necessary for scenic spots to change their mindset. Instead of trying to expand profits by attracting as many tourists as possible, they should try to provide quality services based on specialized and differentiated operations, not only during holidays, but throughout the year.

Zhang Ying (www.voc.com.cn): Having been locked down at home for several months, people are eager to go out and travel. Although the coronavirus has essentially been curbed, it is not time to relax, with prevention measures still needed. Reservations for scenic spots have been adopted in many places to reach this balance between traveling and public health.

The idea for an online booking system was in fact put forward in an official document by the State Council in 2014, aiming to limit the flow of tourists during peak times. This initiative was not been well implemented. In recent years, tourists visiting China's scenic spots during holidays often faced long queues for everything from buying tickets to using the restroom. In the face of these huge crowds, scenic spots were forced to stop selling tickets to limit the flow, shutting out visitors at the gate. If online reservations can be implemented properly, both tourists and the sites themselves will be spared a lot of trouble.

The current online booking system is a matter of expediency during the pandemic, but this does not mean that it cannot become the new normal. Tourists are already used to making reservations, booking hotels, train and plane tickets before leaving home. It is now up to the scenic sites to develop a standardized and effective online booking mechanism. ■

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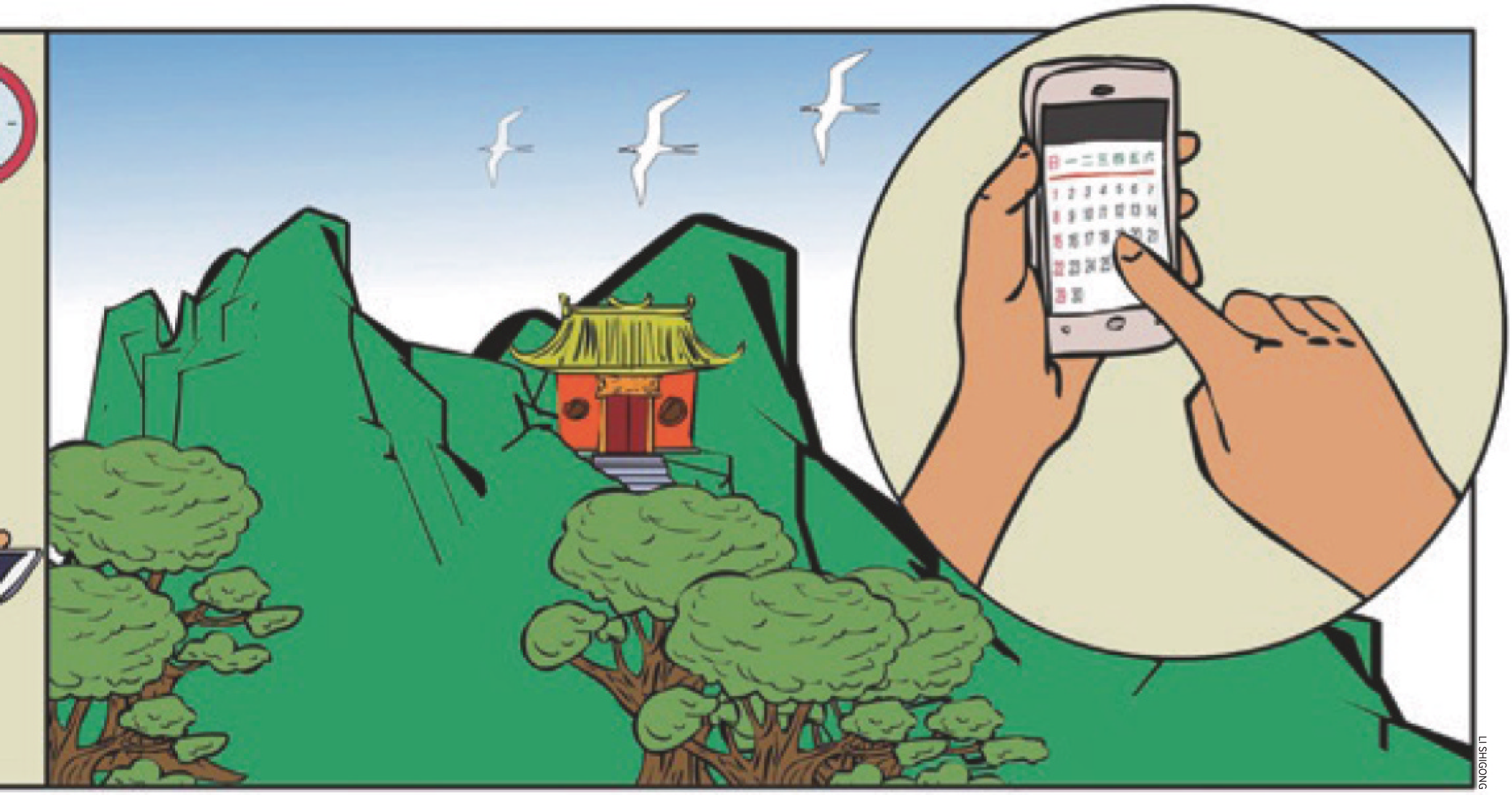

LI SHIGONG

Two Sessions At a Critical Moment

By Lan Xinzhen

The 2020 annual sessions of the National People's Congress, the top legislature, and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the top political advisory body, will kick off on May 22 and 21, respectively. Rescheduled from March over coronavirus concerns, the Two Sessions, which are among the most important annual political events in China, are set to be special.

This year has long been earmarked as the deadline for completing building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and marks the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20).

The unexpected outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) disrupted China's social and economic development in ways unseen in decades. The GDP contracted by 6.8 percent year on year in the first quarter, the first decline since at least 1992 when official quarterly growth data started to be published.

China's economic growth prospect and its fiscal and monetary policies for 2020 have attracted a lot of attention. Although China has clinched an initial victory in the battle against the disease, with factories resuming production and the economy rebooting, there are many uncertainties and tremendous efforts are needed to accomplish its development goals this year.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China held a meeting on April 17 to discuss epidemic prevention and control measures and economic development. According to the meeting, the current challenges to economic development are unprecedented, and thus there must be a full assessment of the difficulties, risks and uncertainties ahead. All work on social and economic development must be carried out with a sense of urgency.

Faced with great downward pressure, will China be able to hit the target of poverty alleviation and become a moderately prosperous society in all respects on schedule? The Two Sessions will provide clues.

While the economic picture at home may seem challenging, the international environment is complex and severe. Cross-border trade and travel have plunged amid the coronavirus pandemic, hammering China's foreign trade.

> Will China be able to hit the target of poverty alleviation and become a moderately prosperous society in all respects on schedule? The Two Sessions will provide clues

Moreover, the U.S. has launched massive fiscal and monetary stimulus measures to alleviate the damage and sustain economy during the pandemic, which will have a significant spillover effect on the Chinese and the global economy.

Due to ineffective and delayed response by Donald Trump's administration, the U.S. now tops the global list of confirmed cases of and deaths from COVID-19. In an attempt to deflect responsibilities and find scapegoats, some U.S. politicians are threatening to hold China accountable for the coronavirus outbreak in an attempt to cancel the debts the U.S. owes to China, and re-impose high tariffs on Chinese imports. Some are even making use of the Taiwan question and affairs in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to obstruct China's development.

These complicated internal and external landscapes pose a major test for China. How to face up to challenges and uncertainties both at home and abroad will be the focus of the Two Sessions.

Reform will also be a key part of the agenda of the Two Sessions once again. Reform has long been regarded as key to fostering new drivers for economic growth. Industrial transformation and upgrading is at a critical stage, and only by advancing reforms can we see these new forces prevail. In addition, new reforms concerning the income distribution system, state-owned enterprises and the financial sector can also be expected, together with innovative reforms that have been launched during the combat against COVID-19.

The Two Sessions will provide some certainty as to how the world will continue in a post-pandemic future. At the least, the world can glean information about China's plan for its own social and economic growth. Also, the Two Sessions will show the world China's commitment to peace, cooperation and development under the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity. ■

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Planting The Seeds

Winning the battle against poverty in 2020